

1905 - 1955



St. Joseph's Colony  
Saskatchewan

RIPENING HARVEST





## Prairie Provinces Collection





Dedicated to the missionaries who cared for the souls, and to the pioneers and settlers who conquered the soil of St. Joseph's Colony

*St. Michael's*

# *Rípening Harvest*

The Story  
of

St. Joseph's Colony

1905 - 1955



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Diocese of Saskatoon  
Chancery Office

June 1, 1955

Dear Reverend Fathers and Beloved People of St. Joseph's Colony:

In this golden jubilee year of the Province of Saskatchewan we celebrate another golden jubilee: it is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph's Colony.

On May 12, 1905, near the present town site of Leipzig, Sask., the first Holy Mass was said in the Colony. Today, fifty years later, Holy Mass is regularly being said in the twenty-four churches of as many flourishing Catholic communities.

The original settlers brought with them a simple deep faith. In this faith they persevered. In this faith they reverently formed their children. Under the guidance of the early heroic missionaries and their successors, these settlers worked, sacrificed, prayed. Thinking of such beginnings and then seeing the present state of development we have reason to rejoice. And we have reason to thank God, who in His Divine Providence raised up men of vision and courage, to make possible such a colony.

May then your faith never falter. May it grow in your own souls and may it be spread by your example. May it be the blessed seed of many vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life. And may all your sons and daughters, priests and religious, and every other vocation or profession, ever hold high the ideals implanted into them by the faith of their forefathers.

Asking God to continue to bless and prosper you all, I am

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ Francis J. Klein  
Bishop of Saskatoon, Sask.





Oblate Provincial House  
1623 - 20th Street West  
Saskatoon, Sask.

May 19, 1955

"He has sent me to evangelize the poor." So reads the motto of the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate. The Oblate founders of St. Joseph's Colony truly realized this motto in their vision, their zeal. "I will spend and will be spent for souls." That is the story of their life. They were priest, provider, doctor, lawyer, and teacher to their people. Fifty years ago the first Holy Mass was said in St. Joseph's Colony in a humble tent, attended by a few poor settlers. Today the colony has twenty-four flourishing Catholic communities. The spirit of faith, brought over by the early settlers, cultivated and nurtured by the missionaries bears fruit.

St. Joseph's Colony is the cradle of St. Mary's Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Its crowning achievement is the Oblate Seminary in Battleford, Saskatchewan, where young missionaries are trained. Had it not been for the colony the seminary would never have been established; once established, it could not have continued to exist.

May there, then, come from the colony many more priests and missionaries who, having the deep, virile faith of their people, the zeal and vision of its founders, will bring their thousands and their tens of thousands to the feet of the crucified Saviour on the Cross.

Very Rev. Stanislaus Wachowicz, O.M.I.  
Provincial





## IN MEMORIAM



Lest we forget the early missionaries who worked and died in and for  
St. Joseph's Colony

Suffa August	1872 - 1918
Guth Joseph	1882 - 1920
Palm Franz	1881 - 1929
Kierdorf August	1876 - 1931
Laufer Joseph	1862 - 1934
Kim August	1871 - 1935
Bergmann Anton	1902 - 1936
Schaefer Rudolf	1872 - 1938
Hermandung Ludwig	1874 - 1939
Krist Theodor	1875 - 1939
Seltmann Julius	1872 - 1939
Lutz Franz	1905 - 1944
Kohler Julius	1878 - 1945
Brabender Wilhelm	1879 - 1945
Schulte Wilhelm	1872 - 1945
Hermes Hubert	1879 - 1946
Leibel Peter	1904 - 1947
Forner August	1875 - 1947
Schulte Joseph	1880 - 1948
Nelz Ernest	1879 - 1948
Fuchs Johann	1880 - 1949
Heintze Bronislaus	1877 - 1951
Riedinger Joseph	1879 - 1951
Funke Philip	1882 - 1951
Schoenwasser Johann	1878 - 1951
Schaller Alfons	1899 - 1951
Hilland Paul	1875 - 1954

May they rest in peace!



# The Story of St. Joseph's Colony

(Adapted from an article prepared by Father Joseph Schneider, O.M.I.)

*"The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. Which is indeed the least of all seeds, but when it grows up it is greater than all herbs and becometh a tree so that the birds of the air come and dwell in the branches thereof."*

(Matt.. 13,31-32)

**T**his year of 1955 is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph's Colony in mid-west Saskatchewan, Canada. Fifty years! Half a century! A long time in prospect, a very short time in retrospect. In these last fifty years St. Joseph's Colony developed from a wild, uninhabited, trackless prairie into an organized prosperous colony. A few wandering Indians have been replaced by 200,000 farmers, ranchers, business and professional men. The hunting-grounds of warring tribes have been organized in-

to orderly municipalities, hamlets, villages, towns. The trackless prairies have been criss-crossed with roads, telephone and power lines. The tepees of the Indians have been replaced with modern dwellings of latest design. The wandering missionary with his indefinite mission stations has been replaced with 20 equally zealous and active and devoted priests who offer the Holy sacrifice of the Mass and perform the liturgical functions in 21 churches. Schools flourish where none were before. Modern up to date

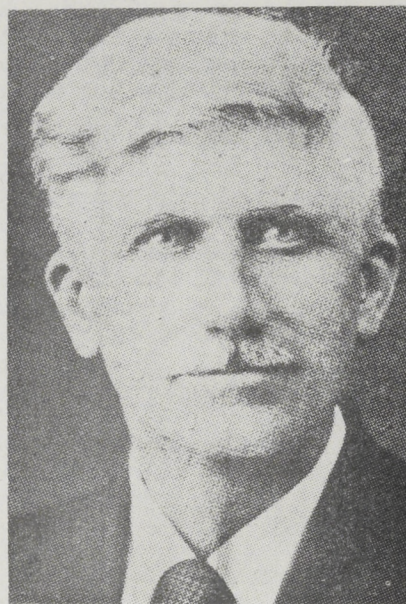


hospitals provide for the sick and the injured. Where once missionaries, professional men of all kinds came from outside to care for the poor, lonely settlers, now priests, teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, professional people of all kinds are developed and trained and sent out to win their epaulets in other fields of endeavor. Great progress! Yes. And all in the short span of fifty years. This in brief is the history of St. Joseph's Colony.

Every great undertaking, every notable movement has its historical cause and its guiding genius. The historical cause or occasion of the founding of St. Joseph's Colony goes back in history to the middle of the eighteenth century. The Empress Katherine II of Russia through promises of land, alluringly made, succeeded in attracting to Russia many people from Suabia, Alsace-Lorraine the Palatinate. Since 1780 they had broken up into groups, moving east along the Danube, to settle along the shores of the Black Sea as far as the Caucasus, and north east along the Volga and in and around Saratow. But the reality did not live up to the alluring promises. And there were wars and rumors of wars. Perhaps, these people, feeling the dissatisfaction that was so general, feared the future. Perhaps they even felt the first stirrings of the great communist revolution. In any case they began to look elsewhere for new lands. They began to look afar for new homes where they could settle in peace, where they could bring up their children in the fear and love of God, in the religion they had sucked from their mothers' breasts.

And into these villages and settlements, then, there began to filter the first stories of far away Canada. There, they heard, people could have land for the asking; there they could form their own settlements; there, there was hope for the future. These stories were inspired and had their origin in the far-seeing mind of Mr. F. J. Lange, the guiding genius and real founder of St. Joseph's Colony. It is needless to go into great detail about his home, his background; to recall, once again, the difficulties he met, the negotiations he had to make with civil and ecclesiastical authorities. His sufferings and privations were great, his disappointments many. His reward was poverty on the one hand, mistrust and suspicion on the other. But his vision and his persevering efforts bore fruit. This was Catholic Action of the first order. Mr. Lange saw the first settlers arrive and he saw the development which followed. May this be his monument!

The first immigrants drove into St. Joseph's Colony from Battleford on the 23 of April, 1905. They numbered three. On May 11 another group of five arrived from Saskatoon, then a little town of 300 souls. Then the flood began. From everywhere settlers rushed in. Year by year the number increased, they surpassed the highest expectations. But for the opposition of government circles, Mr. Lange would have extended the colony to four times its originally planned size. In spite of difficulties, in spite of the poverty of the settlers, in spite of losses through



F. J. Lange

"Lay-Founder of the Colony"

† Holy Thursday, April 7, 1955

wintry blizzards and summer prairie fires, in spite of indescribable hardships, the settlers remained, the colony prospered and developed to its present state of moderate prosperity.

If the idea of such a colony originated in the vision of Mr. F. J. Lange, the credit for the actual organization and development, not only in spiritual matters but in temporal matters as well, must, to a great extent go to the clerical co-founders of the colony and to the first pastors in charge. These clerical co-founders were the sons of another man, a vision, of the servant of God, Bishop Charles Eugene DeMazenod, founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. It is not in vain that Pope Pius XI called them the "specialists in the most difficult missions." At that time Bishop Pascal, O.M.I. was Bishop of Prince Albert and Vicar of Missions. The proposed colony lay in his mission field. When Mr. F. J. Lange first broached the idea of such a colony to Bishop Pascal, the bishop took it up with enthusiasm and vigor. What better way of developing the territory both spiritually and materially than to bring together settlers of similar national, religious and educational background; to group them into settlements of their own; to provide them with priests who understood them and their needs. These priests had to be real men of God and at the same time men of affairs. They had to be intrepid, fearless missionaries; they had to be builders, organizers. With great care for the present they had to have an eye for the future. Bishop Pascal found such men among his own religious confreres, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The first of the group were Father Schweers, O.M.I., and Father Joseph Laufer, O.M.I. A happy combination! Father Schweers, the vigorous, fearless, energetic worker and organizer, eminently practical, who showed himself equal to



the most exacting situations. Father Laufer, the gentle, humorous man of affairs, the talented retreat master, who could, on occasion, pour oil on troubled waters, the able financier who in a truly paternal manner provided means for all current exigencies.

Father Laufer, for a time, travelled between Battleford and the colony bringing in men, material and supplies. He said the first Mass in the colony in the Tramping Lake settlement and served the needs of as many as possible. Soon, however, the poverty of the colonists forced him to devote his full time to retreat work which automatically turned into begging expeditions. How happy he was when he could return from a trip with money for implements, for oxen and horses for the settlers. How glad, especially when, like another Santa Claus, he could distribute another carload of food and clothing to the needy (Christmas 1905) or a shipment of potatoes and children's clothing (Christmas 1906).

Meanwhile Father Schweers worked with untiring zeal and devotion. He hurried to all corners of the colony baptising, marrying, burying. He encouraged where necessary. He thundered warnings when necessary. And he gathered his scattered flock around primitive altars sometimes in a tent, sometimes in a sod house, sometimes in a log shack and sometimes in the open to offer up the august sacrifice of the Mass and to distribute the God-man in Holy Communion.

These two missionaries were soon joined by others of the same heroic mould. Oblates all, who came from that cradle of missionaries, the Oblate Scholasticate in Huenfeld, near Fulda (Hessia) in Germany. Established in 1885, at the turn of the century, already it was sending out missionaries to the far flung mission fields of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Wherever their vow of obedience took them they labored as "sons of light" ("filii lucis") bringing their thousands and tens of thousands to the feet of the crucified Saviour on the Cross. The names of Fathers Forner, Brabender, Nelz, Bieler, Palm, Meyer, Schultz, Guth, Christ, Schwebius are inseparably linked with the first organizational efforts and successes throughout the colony. The spirit of faith and spiritual fervor engendered by these men in the souls of their people will constitute their perpetual memorial here on earth and their eternal crown in heaven.

**A**nd what these Oblate missionaries began, their equally zealous and energetic successors continued. Where fifty years ago the prairie wastes stood empty there now stand twenty-one churches, and more are being built. Where once Holy Mass was said in humble log shacks, the divine service is now beautifully performed in imposing and large churches. Where once there were no schools, there are now schools everywhere, attended by about 2500 Catholic children.

The Sisters of Notre Dame operate a large convent at Leipzig and several public schools. The Ursuline Sisters of Prelate operate five large public

schools. The Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Humboldt, operate a fully modern and fully accredited hospital at Macklin. A shrine in honor of our Lady of the Rosary at Reward annually draws thousands of pilgrims on the feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16. In 1948, on the occasion of the great Rosary Crusade of Father Peyton 92% of the people of the colony pledged themselves to the daily recitation of the Rosary. In 1954, the Marian Year, approximately eight thousand flocked to the shrine to show honor to the Immaculate Mother of God. "Maria zu lieben ist all'zeit mein Sinn", they sang. Their very presence at the shrine was a tribute to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate under whose care they had been reared, from whose lips they had heard the word of God, from whose hands they first received Holy Communion, by whom they had been taught to love and honor the Immaculate Mother of the Saviour of mankind.

Children's organizations exist, organizations for young people, altar societies or branches of the Catholic Women's League for the women, councils or sub-councils of the Knights of Columbus for the men. And when war came these new settlers and their sons went to the colors of their adopted country. By hundreds they went, many making the supreme sacrifice. And slowly there began to rise up among the sons and grandsons of the early settlers, men and women who show themselves to be leaders: priests, teachers, sisters, doctors, nurses, lawyers, professional men and women of every kind. These men and women are beginning to take the lead in municipal, in town, in school, in agricultural matters. This is the ripening of the tiny seed planted by the first missionaries and nurtured by their successors. This is the beginning of the real harvest, the fruition of early hopes and prayers and sacrifices.

**B**ut there was a price to pay for the success achieved. Christ said: "The disciple is not greater than the master." It cost Him His life to bring about the salvation of mankind. A similar price must be paid by those who would follow in His footsteps. Many of the early settlers have already paid the price. Prematurely broken and bent by hardship, want and suffering, they lie in the various cemeteries scattered throughout the colony. One after another of the early missionaries has gone to his reward until there remain only a few. Who can recount the privations they endured, the physical and mental sufferings they had to accept! The life of the early missionaries was one of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty. They plodded on like beggars in understanding cooperation with their people. Intimately they shared the daily drudgery of their flocks. They braved the blizzards of winter and the swarms of mosquitoes in summer. They knew the pangs of hunger and learned, first-hand, about pan-cake winters, when their staple diet consisted of potatoe pan-cakes.

And then most of the priests were charged with the care of three or four mission stations. This neces-



sitated endless driving, not with modern, well heated automobiles, but with horses and buggies and sleighs. Christmas 1911, for example, found Father Schwebius at Kerrobert. After endless confessions he had Midnight Mass at Ermine. Immediately after he left for Handel (31 miles), by team. There more confessions and a second Mass. Thence to Carmelheim (9 miles) for still more confessions and his last Christmas Mass. And, of course, all this while still fasting, and travelling in sub-zero weather in an open sleigh. True heroism indeed!

In 1915 the same missionary had a still more awesome experience. A good Irishman had begged his relatives and friends for a regular funeral. He died. Word reached Father Schwebius at Kerrobert. The distance to be covered was 43 miles. The weather outside: a typical January blizzard. No one ventured out. But duty called and Father Schwebius went. It almost cost him his life. He left Kerrobert at 3 p.m. He arrived just on time for the funeral next morning at 10 a.m. On the way, lost, he allowed his horse to follow the railway track. Suddenly they were on a tressle bridge and the legs of the horse went through the openings between the railway ties. It was night, freezing cold. No wonder Father Schwebius prayed to his Guardian Angel. Somehow Father extricated his horse and step by weary step they crossed. Eighteen hours in the bitter cold and without a stop for hot coffee.

And most of the early missionaries had similar experiences. Remember Father Forner, Father Bieler, and all. Father Forner, to those who know his experiences, was a real martyr for his duty. Trips made, in the line of duty, with indescribable hardship. Self-sacrifice that know no bounds or limits.

And besides these external cares there were also the worries and cares for their flocks. Truly they could say with St. Paul: "Combats without, fears within." (2 Cor. 7,5.) And what of the terrible cross of loneliness which pressed so heavily on them! Those who have experienced it will understand.

But in spite of all, in season and out of season, they preached Christ and Christ crucified. They taught the love of God by word and by example. We see the results of their work all around us.

**A**nd always they had an eye for the future. They keenly interested themselves not only in the immediate material and spiritual well-being of their people but also tried to provide for the coming years. As the large families of the early settlers grew up it became apparent that there would not be enough land for all within the confines of St. Joseph's Col-

ony. Therefore the foundations of new colonies were laid: Prelate, Goodsoil, Peace River etc. It soon became equally apparent that Canadian priests would have to be formed to continue the ministry so zealously begun by the early Fathers. This was and is being provided for. In 1932 the St. Charles Scholasticate, Battleford was opened. Since then about 75 young Canadian priests have been formed there. Admirably they walk in the footsteps of their predecessors in the sacred ministry. They not only replace the older Fathers as these go to their reward, but show themselves ready also to go to mission fields far from home.

Yes, without a doubt, the wonderful development of St. Joseph's Colony has amply justified the hopes and inspirations which led to its foundation. The settlers, it is true, had to make tremendous sacrifices, to work unbelievably hard to build new homes and communities for themselves and to contribute their share in the building of a new nation. Not the least of the sacrifices was that of seeing their beloved traditions and customs gradually being submerged by the dominant trends of their adopted country. Their fathers in Russia had stubbornly clung to their mother tongue and to the traditions of their forefathers. This mother tongue and these traditions they had brought over to their new country, sincerely hoping that here too they would survive. Slowly, however, they disappeared. The only redeeming feature of the whole process (apart from the shocking insults under the Anderson administration) was the peacefulness of the absorption. And this at a time when their few remaining relatives in Russia were simply blotted out in the Bolshevik terror. On the whole, the American way of life has given them advantages and privileges of which they had not dreamed before.

But the material, spiritual, national blessings deriving from the colony cannot be measured statistically. Not only did it forestall religious and moral decay among the settlers themselves, it proves ever more a wellspring of Catholic energy for the West at large. For the sons and daughters of the early settlers are carrying cherished ideals to other districts near and far. Some, it is true, fall by the wayside. But most show themselves to be a credit to the sacrifices made for them. And some even become like the leaven of the gospel, leavening their whole environment for the kingdom of God.

Yes, St. Joseph's Colony, originating in the vision of one man, was truly a tiny seed. With the blessing of God, nurtured by the sacrifices of priests and people alike, it has become like "a mighty tree".



# Pioneering - St. Joseph's Colony

The first group of pioneers left Saskatoon the middle of April, 1905, and via Battleford arrived in the Colony in the last week of April. Second group with missionary left beginning of May, arriving on the 11th where Mass was said for the first time the following day. The transformation began. The open prairie, a tent, the sod house, the breaking of the land, the long journeys to Battleford for supplies, and shortly rising from sod, the first frame structures which dot the colony, mile for mile of its length and breadth.

The year 1905 saw the first birth and death in this new land, which before becoming history brought many more settlers. The following year after a cruel and trying winter saw activity far and wide. Homes sprang up as so many mushrooms, so too, the mission centre of Pascal (Leipzig) saw a church and residence.

The settlers flowed in steadily, bringing added work and souls to care for. Missionary help arrived in October of 1907, and already the following year the church was enlarged to care for the increase.

Across the Lake, activity was no less intense. Already the mission of Selz had burst at the seams, to form a new mission of Tramping Lake. Carmelheim and Handel sprang up and developed rapidly. Pascal became the centre of activity for the missionaries of the east side, with Tramping Lake to the west, and missions Grosswerder and old St. Henry's and off into the Province of Alberta.

The memorable year 1911 brought the first visit of Bishop Pascal, who had done much to encourage development and settlement.

Many changes followed from 1912 when the railroad pushed through to bring service and supplies. Pascal mission was abandoned for Leipzig. Selz and St. Michael's became Revenue and Tramping Lake respectively.

*First Caravan* - Wurtzer, Frank; Schermann, Melchior; Schmidt, Rudolph; Kellenhofer, Anton; Kappel, George; Gerlinski, Jacob; Kolenosky, Vincent.

*Second Caravan* - Zimmer, John; Miller, Dominic and Jacob; Perlinger, Frank; Father Theodore Schweers.

*Settlers, 1905* - Kolenosky, Mike; Suchan, Wendel Germin, Jacob; Werachowsky, John; Novokowsky, John.

*Missionaries, 1905-1906* - Father Schweers and Father Laufer; 1907-1913 - Father Schwebius.



The Pioneers of 1905



Where the first Mass in the Colony was said  
May 12, 1905



Sod house (above) and sod barn (below)

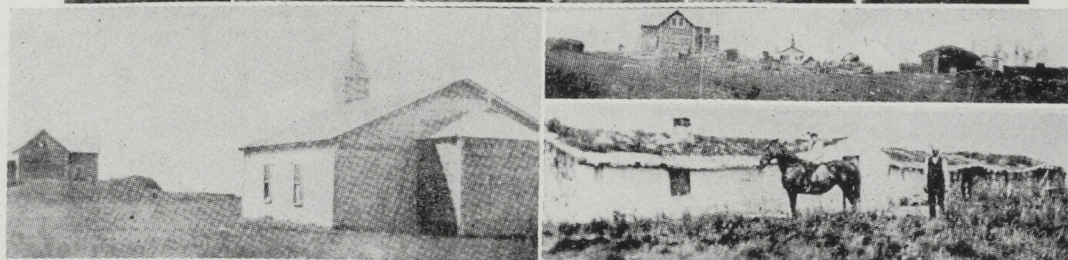




# Pioneer Oblate Missionaries

Oblate Missionaries — Pascal, Sask.

1905 - 1921



1st Row - Father T. Schweers, O.M.I., 1905 - 1913; Father T. Krist, O.M.I., 1910 - 1921;  
Father Laufer, O.M.I., Superior, 1905 - 1906; Father J. Schwebius, O.M.I.  
1907 - 1913; Father Guth, O.M.I., 1910 - 1919

2nd Row - Church and Residence at Pascal, 1907 - 1913; Homestead at Pascal

3rd Row - Oblate Fathers in Annual Retreat at the Provincial House, Regina, Sask., 1927



# The Parishes of St. Joseph's Colony

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## Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Kerrobert, Sask.

### Missionaries

1906 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
1910 Fr. Guth O.M.I.  
1912 Fr. Schwebius O.M.I.  
1922 Fr. Kohler O.M.I.  
1929 Fr. Plischke O.M.I.  
1930 Fr. Twardochleb O.M.I.  
1932 Fr. Hubbert O.M.I.  
1945 Fr. G. Walliser O.M.I.  
1949 Fr. C. Klein O.M.I.

In the year 1906 several families settled northwest of the town site, and for them Mass was said in the homes of the district. By 1910 the railroad served the town, named after Robert Kerr. It became a mission of Tramping Lake, with Mass said in the Windsor Hotel, owned by Tom Ryan.

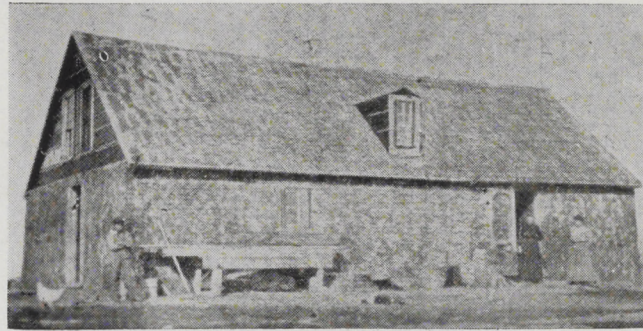
The following year saw the building of a church which, later the same year, was served from Scott. By 1914 a resident priest placed at Kerrobert mission gave it a parish status, with missions at Herschel, Major and St. Donatus.

The same year saw the building of the rectory. The development was slow. But by 1922 a change of pastors also brought to Kerrobert, Lusland and St. Francis and Ermine, as new missions. Over the years many priests served the parish and missions. And finally in 1945 the church was rebuilt and enlarged. Only the missions of Ermine and Major were left with it.

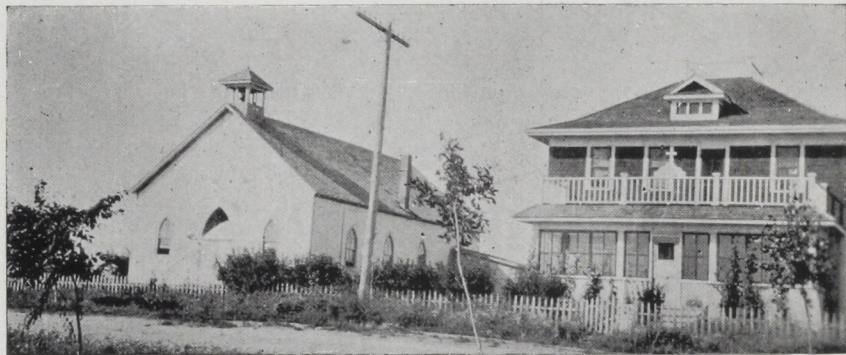
Originally named St. Francis Regis, after the remodeling, the church was placed under the patronage of Our Lady of the Assumption.

Today the parish counts over one hundred families.

Missions: Ermine and Major



First sod church



The old church at Kerrobert

The present Our Lady of the Assumption church





## Canadian Martyrs Parish Luseland, Sask.

### Missionaries

1915 Fr. Schewbius O.M.I.  
1922 Fr. Kohler O.M.I.  
1929 Fr. Emil O.M.I.  
1932 Fr. Schoenwasser O.M.I.  
1939 Fr. Rheidt O.M.I.  
1941 Fr. F. Herman O.M.I.  
1943 Fr. J. Hermann O.M.I.  
1947 Fr. Peters O.M.I.

Settlement was sparse in the first years, and there were only a handful of Catholics. Mass was said occasionally for them in the Ryans Hotel by missionary from Kerrobert. By 1926 the number had grown sufficiently to warrant buying a school, and with alterations a two story church was made, and Mass said in it on May 15. It was at the same time placed under the patronage of the newly canonized Canadian Martyrs. It remained a mission of Kerrobert till 1932, when a house was rented as a rectory and their first pastor was received, with missions at Salvador and St. Francis. It became a mission of Salvador in 1940 where a rectory was bought and residence taken, causing some difficulty; and in 1943 a house was bought bringing again parish status and pastor. The following year the school was practically torn down, and rebuilt into a sizable church which was blessed in 1946. In 1949 a sizable house was bought in Tramping Lake and moved into the grounds, giving the community an excellent parochial set up.

### Vocations:

Nurses - Wenda Coody, Anne Knorr.

Religious - Bro. Joseph Uebel O.M.I.,  
Helen Ostertag (Sr. M. Florence O.S.U.)

Teachers - Steve Rutu, Elizabeth Zimmer,  
Wanda Coody, Victor Ostertag,  
Joseph Ostertag, Walter German.



Old school converted into church

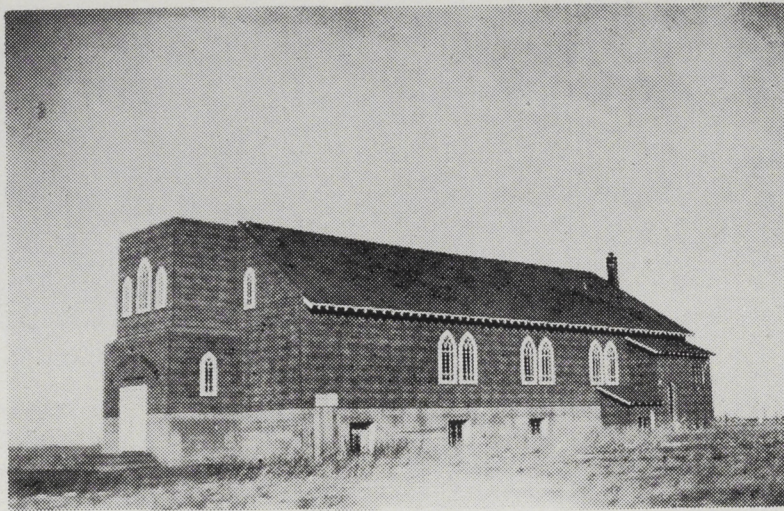


Canadian Martyrs church at Luseland



The parish rectory





The new St. Francis Assisi church, mission of Luseland

## St. Francis of Assisi Mission Luseland, Sask.

### Missionaries

- 1906 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.
- 1908 Fr. Forner O.M.I.
- 1909 Fr. Palm O.M.I.
- 1910 Fr. Guth O.M.I.
- 1914 Fr. Schwebius and Fr. Kohler O.M.I.
- 1932 Fr. Schoenwasser and Fr. Emil O.M.I.
- 1939 Fr. Rheidt O.M.I.
- 1941 Fr. Hermann O.M.I.
- 1947 Fr. Peters O.M.I.

Settled in 1906, St. Francis Mission is unique in the Colony. It began as a mission and remains so today, being the oldest as well as having received care from almost all of the stations of the Colony. Originally known as Ulricks Parish, where Mass. was said in the farm homes, they had the first wood church in the Colony. This tiny structure served as a

mission from Tramping Lake, was a stop over on the crossroads of the Colony. In 1910 it became a mission of Grosswerder and received its present name.

In 1910 it was again a mission of Tramping Lake. From 1914 to 1932 it was a mission of Kerrobert, and since then tied to Luseland. In the early 30's fire destroyed the original little church, and it was not till 1940 that a new church was built. Mass had been said in schools.

The year 1948 brought disaster when lightning struck and burned the fine new church. The following year work was begun on a new structure, at present not completed. Some 60 families make up the mission.

### First Settlers —

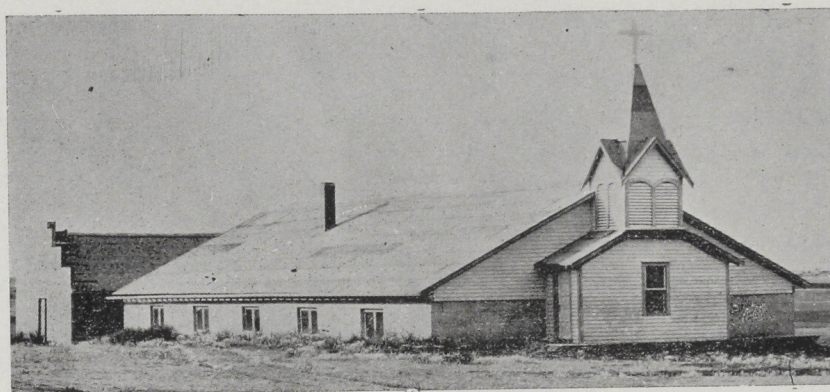
Jacob Ulrick, Peter Gerlinski and 3 sons, John German and 3 sons, John Rigelhof and son, Frank Schmidt, Adam Hieland.



## St. Henry's Parish Salvador, Sask.

### Missionaries

1906 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
 1908 Fr. Forner O.M.I.  
 1909 Fr. Palm O.M.I.  
 1910 Fr. Schultz O.M.I.  
 1911 Fr. Bieler O.M.I.  
 1923 Fr. Schultz O.M.I.  
     Fr. Bieler O.M.I.  
     Fr. Goetz O.M.I.  
     Fr. Schoenwasser O.M.I.  
 1940 Fr. Rheidt O.M.I.  
 1941 Fr. Meyer O.M.I.  
 1954 Fr. Hubbert O.M.I.



St. Henry's church at Salvador

The district of old St. Henry's, better known as the Leibel Parish, was settled in 1906-1907, some four miles north of present town-site. Missionary said Mass as early as 1906. Mass was said in the Leibel home till 1909 when original church was built. In 1909 it was transferred to Grosswerder from Tramping Lake. In 1911 a rectory was built near the church, and a parish formed with resident pastor. About 70 families made up the parish. Since it was by-passed by the railroad it was doomed as a permanent location, and 1923 saw its division into four parishes. A portion of it became the new St. Henry's mission of Salvador town-site, where a basement was constructed and roofed in, remaining so today.

Old St. Henry's was then dismantled and a parish hall was built at Salvador. Salvador became now a mission of Reward. In 1935 its care was transferred to Luseland. In 1940 the Reiss residence was bought, and with resident priest once again became a parish, with missions Luseland and St. Francis.

### Vocations —

Priesthood — Fr. Prothman O.M.I.  
 Sisters — 2 Prothman, 2 Leibel, 2 Usselman.

Teachers — Marcella Young, Pearl Reiss, Margaret Reiss,

Nurses — Marlene Young.



Interior of St. Henry's church



# St. Peter's Parish

## Cosine, Sask.

### Missionaries

1923-27 - Fr. K. Meyer O.M.I.  
 1927-30 - Fr. J. Schneider O.M.I.  
 1930-32 - Fr. J. Boening O.M.I.  
 1932-48 - Fr. P. Habets O.M.I.  
 1948-50 - Fr. H. Krawitz O.M.I.  
 1950-54 - Fr. Paul Feist O.M.I.  
 1954- Fr. H. Krawitz O.M.I.

History of St. Peter's is intimately tied to that of Grosswerder. Settlers arrived in 1907. Due to proximity of St. Anthony's, Mass was attended there until about the year 1914 when regular Mass was said in the school house. Not to be outdone a petition was sent to the Bishop in 1917; shortly thereafter the church was built. In 1925 with completion of the rectory, received resident pastor again with aid of petition to the Bishop, on day of Confirmation.

Of late, a convent and a five room school were added to enhance St. Peter's spiritual life, as well as appearance.

### Vocations:

#### Priests:

Fr. Peter Blatz O.M.I., Fr. Egbert Stang O.M.I., Bro. Pius Sieben - Novice O.M.I. (parents now residing in Macklin).

#### Sisters:

Sister Aloysia O.S.U., Prelate, (Clara Blatz, daughter of Herman Blatz; entered 1930, died 1938)  
 Sister Juliana O.S.U., Prelate, (Katherine Stang, daughter of Jos. A. Stang)  
 Sister Paula O.S.U., Prelate, (Bertha Reinboldt, daughter of Fred Reinboldt)  
 Sister Carmelita, Novice O.S.U., Prelate, (Scholastica Stang, daughter of Emanuel Stang)  
 Sister Elaine O.S.U., Prelate, (Katherine Hollmann, daughter of Jos. Hollmann, Sr.)  
 Sister Theodora, Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Humboldt, (Anna Sieben, daughter of Henry Sieben)



St. Peter's church and rectory as they appear today

Sister Magdalena, Humboldt, (Mary Walter, daughter of Frank Walter)

Sister Stefania, Humboldt, (Anna Brost, daughter of John P. Brost. Sister Stefania died at Battleford)

Sister Josephine, Humboldt, (Pauline Brost, daughter of John P. Brost)

Sister Leopoldina, Humboldt, (Anna Brost, daughter of Peter Brost)

Sister Martina, Humboldt, (Bernadette Gramlich, daughter of Martin Gramlich)

Sister Appolonia, Humboldt, (Emilia Sieben, daughter of John Henry Sieben)

Sister Perpetua, Humboldt, (Mary Haag, daughter of Mike Haag)

Sister Marcella, Humboldt, (Mathilda Haag, daughter of Mike Haag)

Sister Eleanora, Humboldt, (Margaret Prediger, daughter of Alexander Prediger)

Sister Benigna, Humboldt, (Elizabeth Baier, daughter of Peter Baier)

Sister Pauline Stang, Novice with Father Kuckartz's Sisters of Mission Service, Saskatoon. (Pauline Stang, daughter of Jos. A. Stang)

Sister Agnes, Precious Blood, Regina, (Barbara Stang, daughter of Emanuel Stang)

Sister Magdalena, Precious Blood, Edmonton, Alta. (Rosalia Reinboldt, daughter of Fred Reinboldt)

Sister Anastasia, Notre Dame Sister, Leipzig, Sask., (Christina Sieben, daughter of John Henry Sieben)

Sister Raymunda, Notre Dame Sister, Leipzig, (Rosa Sieben, daughter of John Henry Sieben)

Sister Carolina, Humboldt, (Emilia Sieben, daughter of Joseph Sieben, Sr.)

St. Mary's School - built in summer 1949, opened in Oct. 1949. 97 pupils. 4 Ursuline Nuns from Prelate.

Our Lady of Fatima Convent - 5 Ursuline Sisters from Prelate. Convent built in summer 1949; opened in October 1949; destroyed by fire in December 1949. New Convent built in spring 1950.

Died for his country - Pilot Officer Joseph G. Sieben - R.C.A.F., killed on Feb. 2, 1944. Son of John Henry Sieben.





St. Donatus church, mission of Cosine

## St. Donatus Mission Cosine, Sask.

In the south west corner of the Colony lies the mission of St. Donatus. Blessed with a rolling terrain, it was nevertheless settled in 1912 and 1913. Mass was said once a month from mother church at Grosswerder, in homes. During the great war 1914 a minor conflict developed in the hills of St. Donatus; two churches were erected. Three years later the more southerly was destroyed by fire; at this time it was a mission of Kerrobert and remained so until 1923 when it became and remained a mission of St. Peter's. By 1923 a new location was chosen, peace reigned, a new church was erected to weather the spiritual and natural storms for time to come. Com-

pleted in 1925 and blessed the same year.

### Vocations —

Wendelin Rollheiser, Novice O.M.I. at St. Norbert, Man., (Son of George Rollheiser, Jr.)

### Sisters —

Sister Zita, Humboldt, (Barbara Rollheiser, daughter of George Rollheiser, Sr.)

Sister Donata, Humboldt, (Mary Kloster, daughter of G. Kloster)

Sister Marcella, (Marcella Schamber, adopted daughter of George Schamber)

Sister Emelda, Humboldt, (Katherine Gartner, daughter of Joseph Gartner)

Sister Maria Goretti, Notre Dame Sister, Leipzig, (Veronica Gartner, daughter of Joseph Gartner)

Sister Joseph Maria, Notre Dame Sister, Leipzig, (Elizabeth Gartner, daughter of Joseph Gartner)

Sr. Barbara Gette, Novice, Sisters of Mission Service, Saskatoon, (Barbara Gette, daughter of Alois Gette)

Sister Katherine Schamber, Novice, Sisters of Mission Service, Saskatoon, (Katherine Schamber, daughter of John Schamber)

Sister Anna Schamber, Novice, Sisters of Mission Service, Saskatoon, (Anna Schamber, daughter of John Schamber)



# The Schools

## A background story of the development of the schools in St. Joseph's Colony

The progress and development of the schools of a country or of a district are the reflection of the mental calibre and prudent vision of its people. In Canada education is completely the duty and the responsibility of the Provincial Governments, each of which has its proper department of education. It is this department which, together with district and local school trustees, administers the educational facilities, determines curricula etc. Presently what is said of one district of the province could, in general, be said of all the others, since the basis of the administration policy is "equal educational facilities for all."

However it was not always so. Saskatchewan became a province only 50 years ago. And 50 years ago St. Joseph's Colony was founded. It is true that school districts were quickly established. But communications were rather difficult, supervision practically impossible. During the first years, then, people were left to their own

devices. In those districts in which energetic men of vision were to be found school facilities were quickly supplied. In others school facilities lagged. All in all the record of St. Joseph's colony is one of which the early settlers and the succeeding generation can be justly proud.

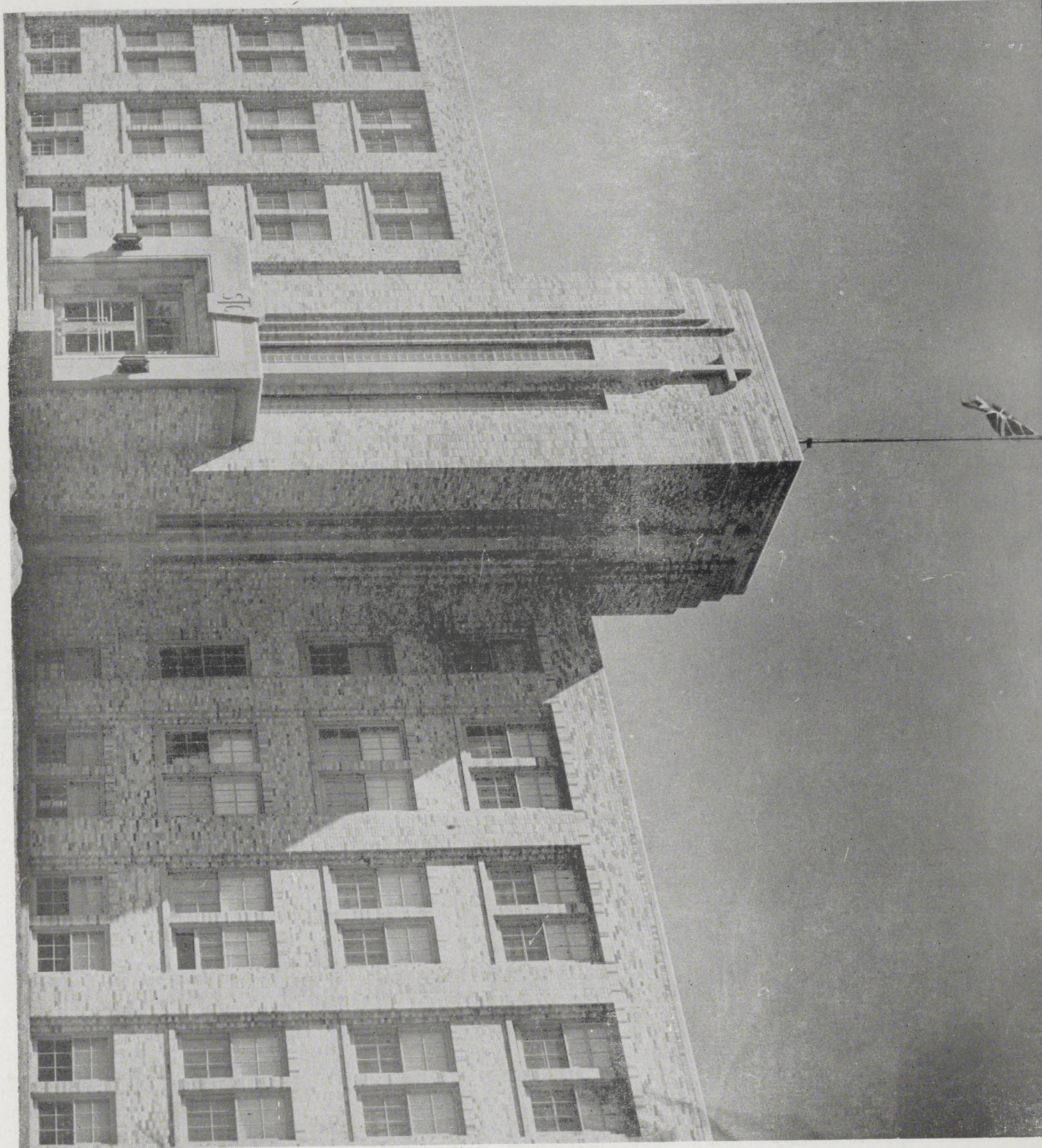
Put yourself in the place of one of the early settlers. Try to imagine his plight. Try to visualise his dreams, his hopes, his aspirations for the future. In the land of his birth he had been poor, very poor. He tilled only a few acres of land or worse still he worked for a landlord with no property of his own. He heard of the golden opportunities offered in far away Canada. With great hope he embarked for the new land. He came with nothing but his two good hands, a willingness to work and a great faith in God. On arrival he was herded through immigration offices, pushed through land offices. He was given the location of his homestead, a quarter

section of land and it was explained to him what was expected of him before the land really became his own. Bleakly uncertain he set out to find his homestead with two or three others either from Battleford or from Saskatoon. After days of wandering and nights spent under the stars he finally arrived. He stood on his land. This was to be his, his very own.

First things came first. He put up a little sod or log hut as a shelter for himself and for his family. He tilled and seeded a few acres of land so that he and his children might have bread. He had to gather fuel for the long winter months of which he had heard so much. He had to scrape together enough to keep body and soul together. In those days there were no relief trains, no government subsidies as we know them now. But he managed. The difficulties were enormous, the sacrifices great. Immediate needs having been met, as far as possible,



St. Thomas College, North Battleford, Sask. — "A great achievement of lasting value"







**St. Charles Scholasticate, Battleford Sask.**  
**Founded in 1932, it is an outgrowth of St. Joseph's Colony**

he began to think of the future, not so much for himself as for his family, his children. Now came the church. The little groups of settlers, under the leadership of the missionary, banded together to build humble mission chapels where they could refresh their faith, assist at the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

But more was needed. In the old country he himself had had little or no schooling. Perhaps he could not even write. Even though he could not yet speak the language of his adopted country, he was determined that his children would have a better chance than he had had. They must have schooling. So he discussed, with his neighbors, his hopes and plans. The priest was called in. Soon the humble country school house stood ready. With the help of the priest a teacher was found. Then one morning he and his neighbors proudly took their children to the new school. The process of school education had begun. So it was. First the sod or

log house. Then the tilling of a few acres of land. Then the church. Then the school.

However, during the early times of the colony, the years of schooling were usually few. The work on the homesteads was constant and heavy. The father could not possibly do it all alone. Therefore as the boys reached their 14th or 15th year they usually had to leave school to join forces with their parents to make a living and to expand farming operations. There was little question of high school training; the high schools were few and far between. There was no question at all of university education.

It is true that a few of the boys were sent to colleges at Edmonton, Muenster, even at Regina. And some of the girls attended convents. But these were far too few. In retrospect we can, with good reason, say that this was a great mistake. We see in the Colony many men, now of middle age, who show great talent. They could

have been real leaders; they could have exercised great influence in the organization and development of the district and of the province. Because of their lack of sufficient education their sphere of influence has remained very restricted.

It was in the early 1920's that high schools first began to be organized and established in the larger centres of the colony. But because most of the people lived on farms, because the roads were poor, and perhaps also because of a lack of appreciation of the value of a higher education the number of pupils remained quite small.

In the early 1930's a major step for education in the Colony was taken by the Oblate Fathers of St. Mary's Province under the able and farsighted leadership of Rev. Father Thomas Schnerch, O.M.I., Provincial. A college for boys was opened in Battleford: "The Oblate House of Studies." What difficulties, sacrifices and financial burdens this entailed only the Oblate





St. Angela's Convent, Prelate Sask.



The Convent at Leipzig, Sask.

Fathers could tell us. The aim of the college was the fostering of priestly and missionary vocations and the training of good Catholic lay leaders. For the first few years of its existence most of its students came from St. Joseph's colony. And from this institution came to the colony the real impetus towards higher education. As the students returned to their homes after one or more years of college, the influence of the college was felt throughout the whole of the Colony. Slowly, gradually the number of highschool students increased. It is only now, twenty years later, that the real value of this college to the Colony can be assessed. Today, where once, not so long ago, there were so few high school students, there are many: Macklin about 50, Cosine 15, Pimate 24, Denzil 40, Grosswerder 16, Salvador 12, Luseland 65, Kerrobert 75, Tramping Lake 35, Revenue 20, Scott, 17, Unity 80, Wilkie 100, Leipzig 24, Handel 20. And year by year the number of university students increases as well.

With the inauguration of the "Larger Units of School Adminis-

tration" in the middle 1940's great changes were made. It is not within the scope of this brief background story of education in St. Joseph's Colony to debate the pros and cons of this method of school administration. The same applies also to the trend toward centralization which seems to be its unavoidable consequence. The fact remains that since the advent of the larger units many advances have been made. By means of centralization, on a small scale, several centres have been created such as Salt Lake, Cosine, etc., providing high school facilities in districts in which, without centralization, these would have been impossible. A number of new schools, badly needed, have been built. And, in general, standards have been raised.

No background story of the schools of St. Joseph's Colony would be complete without an expression of appreciation to the teachers who labored, almost without financial reward, during the long years of poverty — the late twenties and the thirties. No names can be mentioned though theirs should be engraved in gold on a

monument erected to them alone. May they find their reward in the great contribution they made and in the knowledge that their generosity will long be remembered.

The thanks of the Colony go out also to the Reverend Ursuline Sisters, Prelate, Sask., and to the Reverend Sisters of Notre Dame, Leipzig, Sask. They too have made great contributions to education here. They taught by word and example. And their work continues.

With such humble beginnings great things have been achieved. Today, due mostly to the vital concern and to the sacrifices of the people, the schools of St. Joseph's Colony compare very favorably with any in the province of Saskatchewan. There is among our people a growing awareness of the necessity and value of education. And there begin to emerge among our young men and women, leaders of conviction and of stature. Men and women of character who, in God's good time, will make noble contributions to their communities, their province, their country, in all spheres of human endeavor.



## The Parishes of St. Joseph's Colony (Continued)

### Holy Rosary Parish Reward, Sask.

#### Missionaries

- 1910 Fr. Forner O.M.I.
- 1911 Fr. Palm O.M.I.
- 1911 Fr. Bieler O.M.I.
- 1923 Fr. Goetz O.M.I.
- 1926 Fr. Groetschel O.M.I.

The history of Holy Rosary is very similar to that of other settlements. Shortly after arrival, one of the first objects was the erection of a church to bring the spiritual consolations of our Holy Faith into the midst of the faithful. The first settlers arrived in 1909 and during the following year Mass was said for them in the home of Frank Wilderman, by the missionary stationed at Tramping Lake. In 1910 its care was transferred to Grosswerder. The following year sees the building of the first church, (now the hall). The growth of the mission was steady and a new frame structure was built in 1918, and panels of the mysteries of the Rosary painted in 1920 by Bertold Imhoff. The year 1924 saw the building of a rectory and the mission took the status of a parish.

Situated quite centrally in the Colony it was chosen as a place of yearly pilgrimage, drawing the faithful on July 16 from all parishes and missions.

#### Vocations:

Priesthood – N. Feist O.M.I., P. Feist O.M.I.  
J. Boser O.M.I.



Holy Rosary church at Reward, Sask.



## Sacred Heart Parish Denzil, Sask.

### Missionaries

Fr. Goetz O.M.I.  
Fr. Schultz O.M.I.  
Fr. Schneider O.M.I.  
Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
Fr. Ackermann O.M.I.  
Fr. Kelz O.M.I.  
Fr. Sluga O.M.I.  
Fr. Loran O.M.I.

The original settlers of Denzil belonged to St. Henry's, St. John's, Holy Rosary, and St. Anthony's. The coming of the railroad outskirted the settlement of St. Henry's and chose a new townsite in 1910. By 1912 petitions for a new church in the townsite were in the hands of the Bishop. Within three years plans were quite definite and the largest church in the colony was begun, sealing the fate of old St. Henry's. With a church in the townsite, a rectory soon was planned and built in 1912. The following year saw Denzil achieve parish status, with resident priest on January 1.

The parish saw encouraging growth, and by 1928 plans were quite definite to build a large church, which did not see fulfillment due to concurrent hard times till the late 30's. The present church began in 1939 and has seen continued improvements to this day. It has given much, by the way of higher vocations, signifying a spirit of deep faith and sacrifice in the faithful.

### Vocations:

Priesthood – Martin and Jerome Volk, S. Leibel, Alvin Polz, J. Watchel O.M.I., F. Wandler O.M.I., Peter and Pius Leibel O.M.I.

Sisterhood – Anna M. Volk; John Leibel Family (1); Barbara and Anna Kletzel; Mary Lockert; George Volk Family (3); Mrs. Regina Volk (2); Laurer; Boser; Appolnin, Clementine and Anna Klotz; Zoller Family (2); Margaret Volk; Valensia Leibel; Clara Hauk; Deibert; Polz; Rose Jansen.

Lawyer – Leslie Baker.

Doctor – Charles Baker.

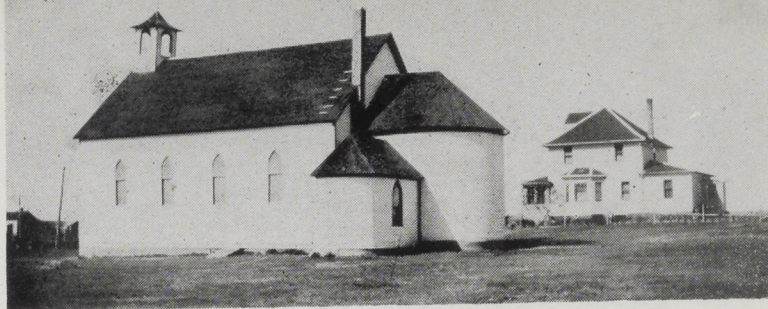
Nurses – Margaret Lessmeister, Mary Dowd, Aloysia Klotz, Edith and Alice Volk, Rose Laumann, Doris Rundell, Marjorie Volk.

Geologist – J. Baker.

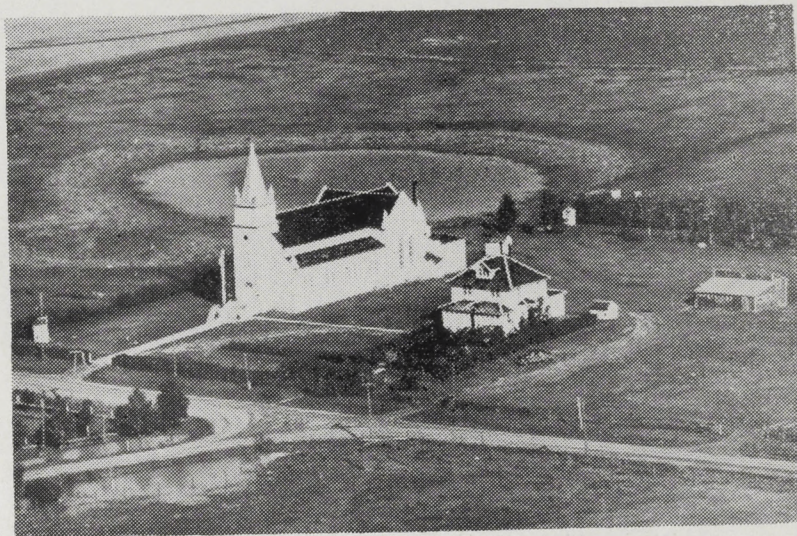
Forestry – Paul Klotz.

R.C.M.P. – Leo Laumann.

Teachers – Bridget Young, Helen Schurmann, Annie Lockert, Eliz. Lockert, Magdalena Kletzel, Ellen Dowd, Lorraine Deibert, Lucy Wist, Frank Ackerman, Joseph Ackerman, Peter and Phillipine Klotz, Rosalie McKenna, Clara Less-



Former church at Denzil



Sacred Heart church and rectory at Denzil

meister, Helen Derendorf, Veronica Zoller, Elaine Rundell, Paul Klotz, Francis Baker, Florian Rollheiser, Rosetta Reiniger.

Stenographers – Marjorie, Irene, Lorraine Eder; Mildred Buechler; Pauline, Clara Rissling; Gladys Upton.

## WORLD WAR II

### Enlisted Men Overseas

Army – Jos. Kokesch, E. A. Young, Leo Schurman, C.J. Elworthy, Leo Lauman, M.J. Leibel, Wm. Allen, R. J. Rundell, John Heilman, Jos. Ceglaz, Finlay MacIntosh, F. Reinhardt, John Ackerman, Walter Materi, Anton Klotz, Chas. Baker, C. Lockert, Mike Lockert.

### Enlisted Army – Not Overseas

Don Colley, Wm. Neason, Peter Volk, E. C. Upton

### R. C. A. F. Overseas

M. Dowd, P. Dowd, R. Colley, M. S. Rundell, Wm. Ulrich, Frank Young, Fred Klotz, Balzar Deibert, Linus Buechler, Paul Klotz, Jack Baker, Clarence Witzaney.

### R. C. A. F. Enlisted but Serving in Canada

Bén Klotz, E. Bradley.

### Enlisted in Navy Served in Canada

E. J. Kletzel, Henry Buechler Jr.

### Enlisted in Women's Div. (in Canada)

Lillian Lauman (C.W.A.C.), Miss Deck (Jake) R.C.A.F.

### Drafted Men in Canada

Wm. Leibel, John Deck, Leo Wiesner, Jake Deibert, Adam Vetter, Joe Hauk, John Hauk, George Schachtel, Florence Witzaney, John Rolheiser, Alphonse Rolheiser, Albert Rolheiser, Joe Jansen, Tom Lockert, Adam Watchel, Nick Leibel, John Leibel, George Vetter, Jack Frocklege, Jos. Volk, Ray Witzaney, Wilf. Witzaney, A. Ganter, Chris. Lanz, Raymond Frocklege.

### Drafted Men Overseas

Joe Wandler, Peter Freson, Nick Miller, A. Frohlich, M. Neason, Roy Schachtel, Mike Volk.



## St. John's Parish Salt Lake, Sask.

### Missionaries

1910 Fr. Schultz O.M.I.  
 1912 Fr. Bieler O.M.I.  
 1923 Fr. Schultz O.M.I.  
 1931 Fr. Schneider O.M.I.  
 1933 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
 1940 Fr. Kelz O.M.I.  
 1941 Fr. Plischke O.M.I.  
 1943 Fr. Nelz O.M.I.  
 1948 Fr. Tim. Riffel O.M.I.

South west of Unity, in rolling terrain, a number of settlers found homesteads, in the years 1909 and 1910, the place known as Salt Lake. On a knoll near the Lake, the first church was built in 1911. Christmas, 1910, brought the missionary for the first Mass. With new church, it became a mission of St. Henry's. A shift in population brought the decision to move the church. This was done in 1923, when it also became a mission of Denzil. 1940 saw the little mission build a rectory and receive its first pastor. In the next two years the Grotto and the hall were built. July of 1946 brought almost disaster, when lightning destroyed the church during a mission. Far from discouraged the people began to build a new church in 1948, to become another gem in the colony. 1950 saw its completion and a satisfied congregation, in the following year, went on to build a school, forming a country community, with town facilities of light and power, far from a railroad.

### Vocations:

Priesthood - Francis Jansen O.M.I., Frank Jansen O.M.I.

### Sisters -

Families: Zoller 2, Jansen 2, Buechler 2, Feist 4, Schumack 1, Guth 2, Leier 1.



The new St. John's church at Salt Lake



Interior of St. John's church



## St. Anthony's Parish Grosswerder, Sask.

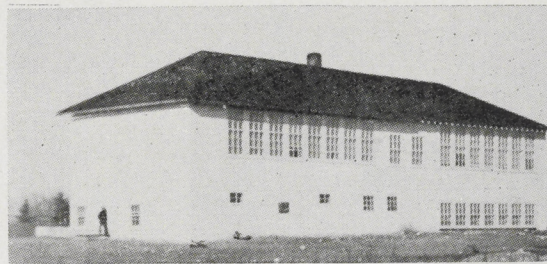
### Missionaries

1907 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
1908 Fr. Forner O.M.I.  
1909 Fr. Palm O.M.I.  
1929 Fr. Meyer O.M.I.  
1930 Fr. Kim O.M.I.  
1932 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
1934 Fr. Krist O.M.I.  
1940 Fr. Walliser O.M.I.  
1943 Fr. Schultz O.M.I.



St. Anthony's church and rectory at Grosswerder

On the centre line of the Colony, and far to the west, pioneer settlers took homesteads in 1906. Visited by a missionary from Tramping Lake, the first Mass was said on Dec. 7, 1907 in the home of John Kolmann. Again the spirit of faith burst forth in the construction of a sod church in 1908, giving them regular visits from missionaries, who then visited missions of St. Francis, Rosenheim and Cadogan in Alberta, along with St. Henry's. Late in the year 1909 a rectory was built, then receiving a resident pastor, to care also for missions in Saskatchewan, old St. Henry's and St. Francis. 1910, a memorable year, brought the bishop's visit and the first confirmation. The present church was built in 1912 and blessed on November 5th. 1914 saw the instalation of the fine set of bells. The parish steadily progressed and in 1952 a modern three-room school was built. The spirit of the founders remains in the parish to this day. The old church and additions have become the parish hall.



The Grosswerder school

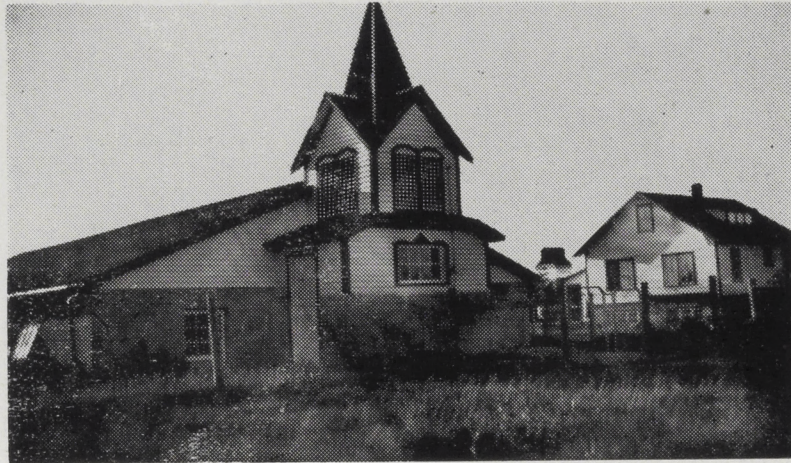
### Vocations:

Priesthood — Frank and Gabriel Schaechtel,  
Waldemar Reschny O.M.I.  
Sisterhood — Sisters Florianna, Agnes, Thekla,  
Clothilda, Anna  
Teachers — Stephen Sieben  
Nurses — Wanda Sieben  
Contractor — Leo Sieben



Father Palm





St. Elizabeth's church at Primate

## St. Elizabeth's Parish Primate, Sask.

### Missionaries

- 1916 Mission of Grosswerder
- 1943 Fr. Riedinger O.M.I.
- 1944 Fr. Krawitz O.M.I.
- 1945 Fr. Jos. Boening O.M.I.
- 1947 Fr. Frank Hermann O.M.I.
- 1948 Fr. P. Bieler O.M.I.

Little history of very early years available. The faithful were few and attended different parishes. By 1916, however, the number was sufficient to warrant regular care and Mass was said in the home of Michael Sheedy. By 1918 it became a regular mission of Grosswerder, with Mass being said in the town hall. By 1924 the number of families increased to 45 and a church was begun. The basement was

roofed in and Mass was said there in September of the same year.

Some years later a house was bought to become a rectory, and with it came parish status. In 1947 a convent was bought and the Sisters of Prelate took over teaching in school.

### Vocations:

Priesthood — Fr. Rollheiser, Fr. Doetzel O.M.I., Fr. Finucane S.J.

Sisterhood — Sisters Lucia, Rufina, Thekla Zita, Tarcisia, Clothilda, Geraldine, Thekla, one Precious Blood Sister.

Teachers — Mary MacLean, Dorothy Graf, Ursula Graf.

Nurses — Loretta, Brainhilda, Barbara, Mary, Katherine, Margaret Stang.

Lawyers — Peter Dillschneider.





The new St. Mary's church and rectory at Macklin

## St. Mary's Parish Macklin, Sask.

### Missionaries

- 1909 Fr. Palm O.M.I.
- 1922 Fr. Brabender O.M.I.
- 1926 Fr. Goetz O.M.I.

First settlers arrived in 1908. The influx two years later brought the settlement to the fore. Mass was said at the residence of Ben Schaefer, and later in the same year, in the hotel of Thomas O.Gorman. The growth up to 1914 warranted regular Mass which was said in the school house or the hotel. In 1916, with a dozen families, the first church was built, and became a regular mission of Grosswerder. In 1921 the residence of B. Shaw was made into the first hospital, and the great work of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth began. The same year a resident priest was placed at Macklin. A doctor was procured in 1924 who since has become its heart beat. 1926 saw the beginning of

the new hospital which was completed and blessed the following year, offering facilities undreamed of in the colony at that time. In 1926 the construction of the new church began: roofed in, it remained the centre of church life till 1946 when construction of a stone edifice was built over it. Completed in 1948 it stands as a permanent monument of the pioneers of the Colony. 1950 saw a rectory, similar in structure, built along side of the church.

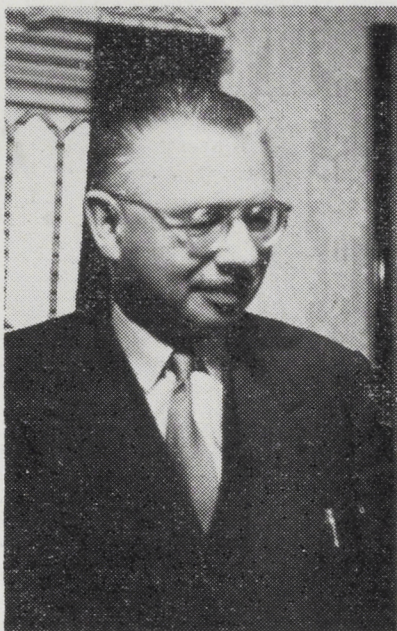
### Vocations:

Sisterhood — Sisters Ambrosia, Eleanor, Bernarda, Aloysia, Julianne, Josephine, Celine, Marcella, Norbertine, Genevieve, Angela, Mechtilde.

Teachers — Katherine Stousse, Josepha Dewald, Rosemarie Stang, Mary Meakin, Frances Meakin.

Nurses — Julia Stang, Mary Stang, Isabelle Doucette, Margaret Schmidt.





Dr. F. L. Eid

Thirty years of service to the people have not daunted his courage nor dimmed his vision

# Medical Services in the Colony

By F. L. Eid, M.D.

When I was asked to write a short history of the St. Joseph's Colony which was founded in 1905, I had only a short time to do so; and the best, within the time limit and the space available, is a sort of sketch; for its imperfection and incompleteness I apologize. It was also clear that one could not write simply a medical history of this relatively small colony as such, but only within the framework of the medical history of the territory now known as Saskatchewan of which the St. Joseph's Colony is a part.

What is today Saskatchewan was part of the North West Territories which extended from the

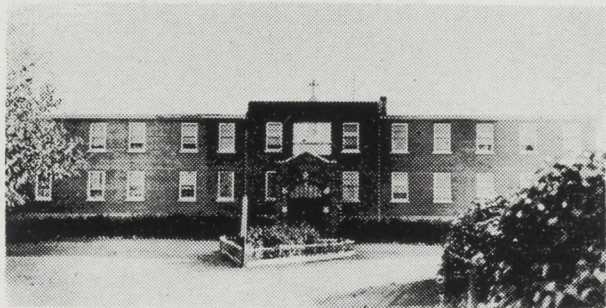
Manitoba line and the border of the United States westwards to the Rockies and north towards the north pole. The first Doctors ever to enter this territory came with Personnel of the Hudson Bay, or with explorers and scientific expeditions or the North West Mounted Police. As early as 1819, one Dr. Richardson came with an arctic expedition into this territory, and we have historical records that he crossed it 6 times as a scientific member of the Franklin Polar expedition going as far north as the Great Slave Lake and beyond, and again in 1821, 1825 and 1847. He was knighted for this work, but almost lost his life from hunger, cold and exposure.



We have a number of names of others who came with expeditions such as Dr. Cheadle in 1862 on whose travels we have a full report. He mentions specifically syphilis and goitre as prevalent amongst the Indians he met. In the North West Mounted Police trek of 1874 we know that Drs. Kittson and Newit participated.

However the first Doctor in this territory in private practice was an A.E. Porter, who established himself in 1878 in Prince Albert and whose territory extended from Prince Albert to Cumberland house, Battleford and Saskatoon, to be reached over roadless prairie by horseback, team and sleigh in any kind of weather. We know that he once went from Prince Albert to Battleford to set a leg. Also that his average annual income was \$900.00. In 1885 all practitioners in the North West Territories were asked to register and at that time 44 doctors were working in this truly immense territory of the N.W.T. comprising almost one half a continent,

Until 1888 Public Health was a responsibility of the Council of the N.W.T. Governor McDewney appointed two doctors as an examining board for new applicants and in 1887 the first Medical Council of the N.W.T. was appointed with 5 members. A college



St. Joseph's Hospital, Macklin . . . each brick and stone tells a tale of hardship and sacrifice

of Physicians and Surgeons was appointed. Till 1905 when Saskatchewan was created, Public Health was a responsibility of the Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T. Until 1899 the Attorney General issued health ordinances and the enforcement of these rested in the main with the police force. The main issue in these days were infectious diseases and the main culprits were typhoid fever, small pox and diphtheria. At the first session of the legislature of Saskatchewan in 1906, public health ordinances were adopted. Dr. M. M. Seymour was appointed as Provincial Health officer under the Minister of Agriculture. Later in 1913 these services came under the department of Municipal Affairs and a Dept. of Health proper was established only in 1923 with Dr. Seymour first Deputy Minister. The country owes him a great debt of gratitude. Amongst other measures, he introduced an act enabling municipal hospital construction which was passed in 1916. The same year

the Municipal Doctor scheme was inaugurated. In 1918 the Provincial Laboratory which was established in 1905 was put under the control of the Public Health bureau. In 1920 free treatment of venereal diseases was made available, also a maternal grant was established. In 1931 Mental Health services were created. In 1946 Mental Defectives were cared for and as early as 1928 already the formation of local public health units was authorized. In 1908 Dr. Seymour had already recognized the necessity of control of Tuberculosis and in 1911 the Anti-Tuberculosis League was formed and the construction of Fort Qu'Appelle Sanatorium was started in 1913. The Saskatoon Sanatorium was opened in April 1925. Services particularly important for rural areas were begun, such as sanitation, public health nursing and laboratory services just to name a few. In this way by the time the depression began in 1929 the Government had taken up a good deal of services, running parallel and in cooperation with the work of private practitioners in whose hands the main part of curative care remained.

As the first of these private Doctors, we have already mentioned Dr. Porter of Prince Albert. We also know that the Temperance Settlers Company arrived in 1883 through Moose Jaw and moved to Saskatoon, and they had a young Doctor whose name is not known with them. A number of Doctors also came from the East during the Riel rebellion in 1885 and worked in the West. But in the years from 1886-89 there was, for instance, no resident Doctor in Saskatoon until Dr. Willoughby settled there in 1889. In 1902 Dr. Stewart settled in Saskatoon. Other early residents were Dr. Peterson, Dr. Weaver, Dr. Valens, Dr. McG. Young and others. The first attempt at hospitalization was undertaken by an Oblate Father at Saskatoon — Father Paille, O.M.I. with the help of two Sisters. More Sisters came and in 1907 the house of Dr. Willoughby at Saskatoon was bought and so the first hospital was established by the Grey Nuns and called St. Paul. In 1907 the City also took over a private nursing home which was started in 1904 and the Saskatoon City Hospital began so. It is interesting to know that the name of Rev. Father Paille, O.M.I., is again mentioned in the history of the beginning of Notre Dame Hospital, North Battleford, where in 1911 he gave up his rectory to establish the Sisters there. I have dwelt already too long on early history and must come to my theme proper, namely, the Medical History of this Colony.

With the influx of settlers into this part of the country which one historian describes as the greatest voluntary colonization immigration in history (?) — it probably was that in its time — private practitioners also arrived in numbers. The only Medical Western School was Manitoba Medical College chartered and initiated by Dr. Kerr on November 15, 1883, striving to supply medical attention to the settlers streaming west in ox carts. In 1886 six men graduated from there in Medicine. In 1908 the Medical College merged with the University.



The Medical services in this Colony were supplied mainly by private practitioners. The Hospital services which gradually developed were of two kinds. The Municipal Hospital type made possible by early legislation as before mentioned. The Private Hospitals were conducted, financed and constructed by Religious Orders. In the St. Joseph's Colony municipal hospitals were constructed in Unity, Wilkie, Kerrobert and a private hospital conducted by the Order of Sisters of St. Elizabeth at Macklin. A private hospital also was opened and run for a short time at Scott, Sask. but given up as the circumstances were not favorable to continue. (July 36 - Oct. 38). (Dr. Cooper, Dr. Sweet, Dr. Jardine, Dr. Schropp, Dr. Wertenbach and a few others). The Unity Hospital (Municipal) was opened as early as 1911. The new building was erected in 1923. The physicians working there were Dr. A. A. Routledge 1909-1945, Dr. J. Smith, Dr. Waite, Dr. Shepley, Dr. L. A. Grier, Dr. F. Wertenbach (still there), Dr. Ach Wensley, Dr. King, Dr. Lancok, Dr. Wykie, Dr. Cunningham, Dr. Mary Thornhill, Dr. F. L. Lowe, Dr. E. J. Sheppard, Dr. R. K. Daniels, Dr. Thompson and Dr. W. J. Doyle (still practicing).

In Wilkie there were Drs. D. MacDonald, McLurg, J. Johnstone, Glassford, Blake, Jardine, Rubley, Hutchison, Wanhope, Medway Cunningham, Gibson, Preston, Mary Kujawa, Cherry, Gibson, Schunan, Gans, Dillon, Simpson, Hermitte, Wood, Brant. The present active Medical Staff is Dr. F.T. Preston, Dr. G.L. Hermitte and Dr. D. Simpson.

The Municipal Hospital at Kerrobert was founded in 1918. The Doctors there were Dr. Moore, Dr. Bryant, Dr. Scrogie, Dr. Cram and associates; Dr. James and Dr. Elliott being the present incumbents now.

At Macklin there were Drs. Kidd, Chapin, Elliott and Eid. A number of points in the Colony had resident local doctors and most of them had some kind of municipal contract. To my own knowledge there were municipal doctors at Senlac — Dr. Fife, Dr. Mills and others. At Salvador Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Grier, Dr. Coffin, Drs. Schwartz (David and Lion) and others and perhaps others temporarily at other points. With the improvement in general conditions and the ingress of more scientific medicine these points ceased to have local doctors and practically today the medical services are centered on points where hospitals are available. One independent local Doctor has remained at Luseland for a long time — Dr. Egerton Graham is still practicing there since 1913. He was preceded by Dr. Gram, Dr. Corrigan and Dr. Coffin. Dr. E. Graham is associated with the staff at Macklin Hospital at the present time.

In the spirit of this sketch the Macklin Hospital, a creation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth is of particular interest. Hence I may be forgiven by expanding more in detail on it as it is the only operating Sisters Hospital at this time in the district, and the only FULLY APPROVED hospital by the Accreditation commission, in this Colony.

May I quote an article (in part) which Sister Marcella, O.S.E., wrote:

"In 1915 Father Francis Palm, O.M.I., asked the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt, Sask. to open a hospital at Macklin, Sask. The Sisters were not able to follow this invitation immediately, but in 1922, urged and encouraged by Father W. Brabender, O.M.I., the Sisters decided to come to Macklin and open the desired Hospital. They knew that a great deal of sacrifice, hard work and worry would be involved. This, however, did not stop them from proceeding with such a worthy cause. A large house was purchased and converted into a temporary ten bed hospital. The resident medical staff then consisted of Dr. Chapin, now in New York and Dr. Elliott, now deceased. In 1924, after Dr. Eid arrived from Germany, the facilities of the initial hospital became entirely inadequate so that the Sisters began plans for a new permanent building. The new building was well constructed, modern in every way and well equipped. In 1927 the Rt. Rev. Bishop Prud'homme blessed the new hospital and declared it officially opened. It was placed under the protection



The Sisters of St. Elizabeth  
who conduct the hospital at Macklin

of St. Joseph and has been known from that day on as St. Joseph's Hospital. The hospital was soon filled to overflowing so that in 1928 another wing was added which brought the hospital to its present capacity.

"St. Joseph's Hospital enjoys the privilege to be among the 17 hospitals of Saskatchewan's 183 hospitals who have received FULL APPROVAL by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. At present time this is the highest standing a hospital can obtain. This should speak for itself as to equipment, operation, management as well as efficient medical and surgical care of the patients of St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1952 the 25th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Hospital was observed. A well planned celebration took place. Among the speakers of the day were His Excellency Bishop F. Klein of Saska-



toon, who had only words of praise for Fr. F. Palm, O.M.I., the Sisters, Dr. F. L. Eid and the Community at large for their fine co-operation, untiring efforts and the wonderful spirit of christian charity. Mayor E. Laubman paid tribute to all who had a share in bringing St. Joseph's Hospital to the high standards it enjoys today. He made special mention of the well planned land-scapping of the hospital grounds. The final speaker was Dr. F. L. Eid from whose speech I quote, 'But the Christian Charity must be and always is here the main theme of life'. After he had outlined the historical facts and dates he reminded the listeners that behind this outline 'was unending toil, work and plenty of worry.' He continued, 'the contribution the Sisters made to this community through the erection and management of the hospital and which has given service for over a quarter of a century to all without discrimination of race, religion or social and financial standing, has been enormous. The continued existence is due to the Sisters' sacrifice, efforts and hard and good work.'"

And now as time and space run short I must conclude. To sum up:

We have seen that as in all lands open up to new settlements the beginning of medical services were very modest and extremely limited. But what took many centuries in Europe we pressed here into 50 short years. What do we have today? Medical Services are given by physicians who are partly working full time for the Government in administration and Institutions, some have Municipal contracts, others again and these are the majority, are private practitioners. The services we have today, to mention a few, are: Free treatment for venereal disease, free cancer, tuberculosis and mental treatment. Free treatment for Old Age Pensioners (drugs 80% free). Free treatment under Mother's Allowances, Pensions for the Blind and others. Medical services for Veterans. Grants for disabled persons, Health region services (Nurses, vaccinations, Sanitation inspection). Free Pathological and Laboratory services to all physicians and hospitals. Free hospitalization to practically all persons of Saskatchewan. Arthritis clinics. Air ambulance services. Some of these are unique and unequalled by any country in the world, such as airambulance, T.B. service and hospitalization for the whole population. We have furthermore a blood service through the Red Cross which is excellent.

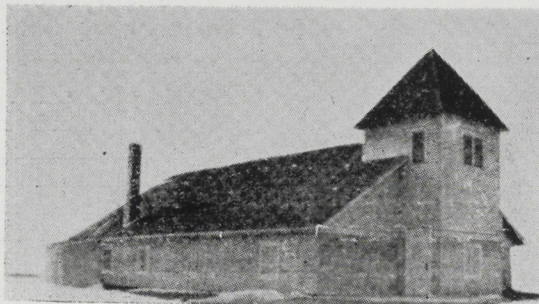
Beside all this we have a very good beginning in private prepaid medical service insurance open to all, and a considerable amount of people insured through group insurance (Elevator companies, etc.) and whole municipalities. We have a very good beginning of a rehabilitation service (polio, cerebral palsy etc.). We have also a substantial program of Health Education through Health Regions. Last but not least we have now a University giving a full academic training in medicine. What should we expect and how should we improve?

The hospital bed situation in the province is adequate. The Doctor situation is also although there is some maldistribution in parts, favoring cities. The nurses situation is inadequate — we need many more. The dentist situation is inadequate. We need considerably more in this colony, for instance — the people-doctor ratio is 1-1500 but the dentist ratio is less than 1-3000. We need badly physiotherapists. The beds for mental deficient and mentally ill are inadequate. We need Old Peoples homes and perhaps worst of all in rural areas is the need for better sanitation. These are a few points only, needing adjustments. The much discussed Dominion wide Health Service (free doctor services for all) will not be available, although endorsed by Federal and Provincial Governments and the Medical Association, as long as the expenditures for armaments remain as high as they are. We have yet and this is most important of all a happy integration of such government activities in the field of health with the private practitioner and undisturbed doctor-patient relationship which we must preserve under all conditions.

All in all we have made in a half a century, magnificent and truly amazing and in some ways almost fantastic progress. Our services are as good as anywhere, and in some instances better; for instance in the treatment of tuberculosis, which is free for all. In this regard we lead the world. We have sufficient medical coverage, clinics, specialists and transportation available to all. We can congratulate all those who were instrumental in bringing about this progress and we can look into the future with justified hopes that whatever deficiencies we still suffer from will be remedied. When we look over the last 50 years and the progress made in Medical services to the people we can proudly say WELL DONE SASKATCHEWAN — and St. Joseph's Colony.



## The Parishes of St. Joseph's Colony (Continued)



Sacred Heart church, Broadacres

### Sacred Heart Mission Broadacres, Sask.

#### Missionaries

Fr. Hermandung O.M.I.

Fr. Twardochleb O.M.I.

Fr. Schweers O.M.I.

Fr. Herbst O.M.I.

The mission members were originally divided between Tramping Lake and Kerrobert. In the early 20's, it was felt that something more definite in the care of the souls be achieved, so with this in mind and with proper permission, the Bishop was approached and approved the erection of a mission stationed at Broadacres. At the same time the building fund was started.

The fund progressed slowly, but by 1928 work began in July was advanced enough by Christ-

mas to have the first Mass said on Dec. 28th. It remained a mission of Tramping Lake. 1955 prospered the hope that the upper structure may be begun and bring to the community its full fledged church. Some four years ago it became a mission of Revenue, whence its spiritual care now comes.

#### First Settlers (Still alive)

Mathias Dietrich, Andrew Scholin



# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Carmelheim, Sask.

## Missionaries

1907 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
 1907 Fr. Schwebius O.M.I.  
 1913 Fr. Nelz O.M.I.  
 1916 Fr. Schultz O.M.I.  
 1925 Fr. Wm. Schulte O.M.I.  
     Fr. Jos. Schneider O.M.I.  
     Fr. Jos. Sluga O.M.I.  
     Fr. A. Kosolofski O.M.I.  
     Fr. J. Fetsch O.M.I.

Settlers arrived in 1906, built a sod church in the same year on the S.E. 18 - 37 - 18 W. 3. Missionaries came from Pascal, Leipzig. Log church, now the hall, was built in 1908, on S.W. 6 - 37 - 18 W. 3, with missionary residence as homestead. It became a mission of Handel in 1913.

The mission grew and prospered and present church began in 1919, completed some years later to become one of the gems of the St. Joseph's Colony. It is now served with light and power. The seed of faith has brought rich fruit in higher vocations, both religious and lay.

## Vocations:

Religious — Sisters Adrian Schwebius, Schammer, Pek.

Nurses — Rohs, Schammer.

Teachers — T. Leinenweber, Lormeer, Schwebius R. & E., Schammer J., A. & M., Rohs J. & A., Vassen P., Kaufman Martin, Rohs Gerald, Coy Leo.

## Pioneers

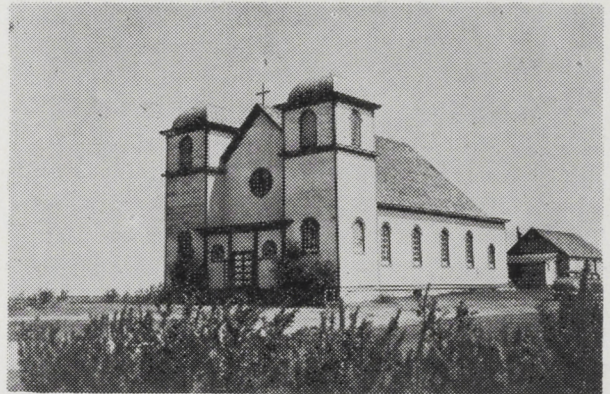
Ben Zimmer, John Zimmer, Adam Knobel

## Settlers of 1906

Adrian Mathias, German Joseph, Delainey Joseph, Goetz Val., Hoffer John, John John, Kaufman John, Kletzel Ben, Leinenweber Jacob & Peter, Lommer Charles, Ochs Anton. Schafhauser Jack, Tchida John, Thomas Mike.



The first sod church



The present church at Carmelheim



The beautiful interior of the church



## St. Peter's Parish Unity, Sask.

### Missionaries

1914 Fr. Forner O.M.I.  
 1920 Fr. Nelz O.M.I.  
 1927 Fr. Boening O.M.I.  
 1930 Fr. Hermes O.M.I.  
 1931 Fr. Bieler O.M.I.  
 1938 Fr. Jos. Boening O.M.I.  
 1940 Fr. Kosolofski O.M.I.  
 1945 Fr. DeMong O.M.I.  
 1947 Fr. V. Fix O.M.I.

A few Catholic settlers took land in the district of Unity, Rutland and Artland. The missionary from Scott attended, offering Mass in schools and homes for a number of years. As the number of faithful increased arrangements were made to have Mass said in the theatre and the town hall. By 1939 Unity had grown to a sizable mission, property was bought and the first church erected and blessed the same year.

Cared for as mission from Scott 1914 - 1935; from Wilkie 1935 - 1939; from Scott 1939 - 1947. Parish established in 1947.

The mission came of age in 1947 when it received a resident priest, a rectory, in response to some 100 families. The parish showed a healthy and steady growth; a new and larger church was planned and saw fulfillment in a modern structure. Work was begun on May 10, 1954, and was completed in 1955. This year also saw its blessing.

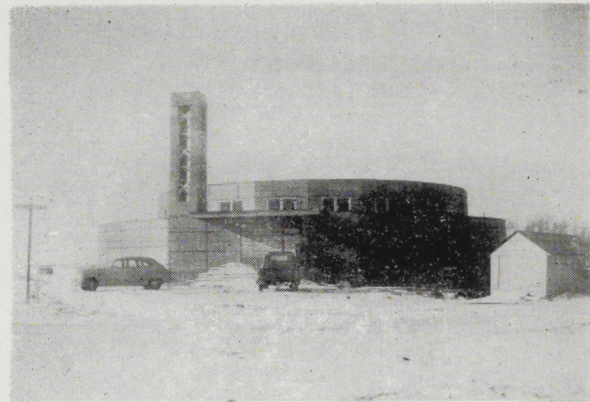
Unity is the first town in the Colony supplied with natural gas from its own territory.

#### Vocations:

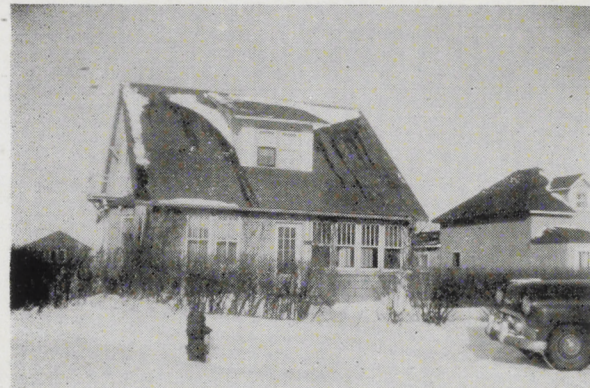
Nurses — Catherine Winterhalt, Clarice Mann.  
 Teachers — Ackerman D., Jack B., Winterhalt V.



The former St. Peter's church at Unity . . . first Mass was said here at Christmas, 1939



The new St. Peter's church, completed in 1955



St. Peter's rectory, purchased in 1947



## St. John the Baptist Parish Wilkie, Sask.

### Missionaries

1909 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
 1913 Fr. Schwebius O.M.I.  
 1914 Fr. Forner O.M.I.  
 1920 Fr. Nelz O.M.I.  
 1927 Fr. Boening O.M.I.  
 1930 Fr. Bieler O.M.I.  
 1938 Fr. Schaller O.M.I.  
 1947 Fr. Hermann O.M.I.



Present St. John the Baptist church, built 1927

District was settled in 1906 - 1908, by a mere handful of Catholics widely dispersed. The C.P.R. reached here in 1908 and became a divisional point and a town in 1911. Mass was said in the priest's house till 1916; then the courthouse was used until 1926. The phenomenal growth from 1926 (a mere dozen) to present 320 families, demanded a new and larger church.

The present church seats about 350; new structure will seat 750. Many retired pioneers from other parishes are taking up residence to gain convenience of city facilities. District and town about half Catholic.

Originally named Holy Ghost parish and later placed under the patronage of St. John Baptist.

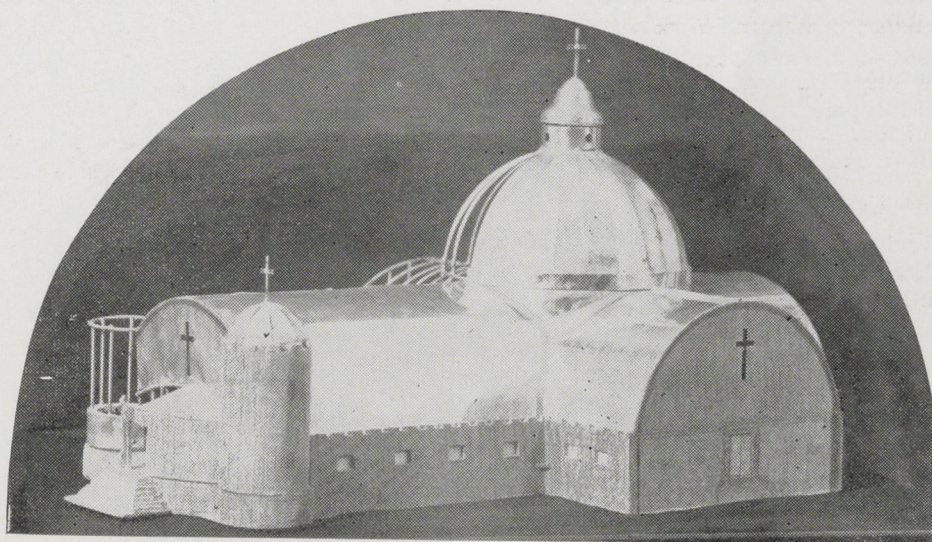
A major strike of potash has been made in 1955, bringing speculation of a doubling of the present population of 1800.

### Vocations —

Seven professed Sisters  
 One seminarian  
 Teachers — A. Mattowsky,  
 A. Lanigan, M. Lanigan.  
 Nurses — J. Laturus,  
 L. Laturus.



Interior of the present church



Model of the new church now under construction



# Assumption of Mary Parish Handel, Sask.

## Missionaries

1906 Fr. Laufer O.M.I.  
1908 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
1909 Fr. Schwebius O.M.I.  
1913 Fr. Nelz O.M.I.  
1916 Fr. Schultz O.M.I.  
1923 Fr. Wm. Schulte O.M.I.  
Fr. Schneider O.M.I.  
Fr. Sluga O.M.I.  
Fr. Kosolofski O.M.I.  
Fr. Fetsch O.M.I.

Arrival of pioneers dates back to 1905. They were cared for by missionaries from Pascal (Leipzig). Upon taking homestead at Carmelheim, the missionary also cared for Handel where a sod church was built in 1906 on N.E. 24 - 36 - 20. The C.P.R. reached here in 1912. On donated townsite property, a new church was begun in November 1913.

The Mission developed rapidly and property opposite the church was acquired on which the rectory was built the same year, winter 1917. Pastor took residence and parish established in 1918. Many improvements were made over the years and finally in 1952 a full basement was put under the church and the following year exterior and interior improved.

## Settlers (1906)

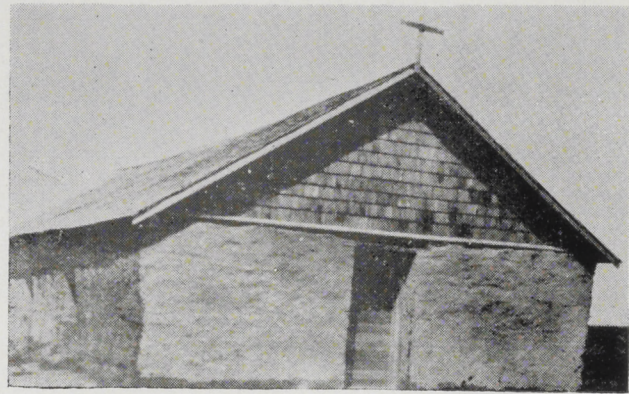
Forrester, Meilterisky A., Junguerth J., Junguerth Frank, Hayar Joseph, Schommer, Nestmann, Koushacouski, Hetzel M. Bechmann Joe.

## Vocations:

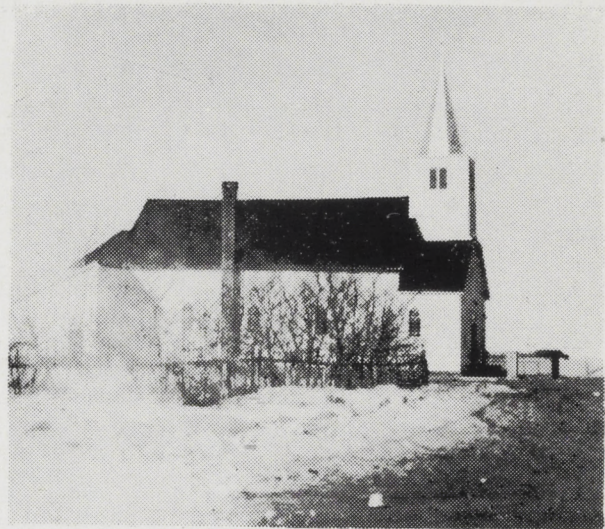
First priest of the Colony, Fr. Joseph Boening, who began as a homesteader was ordained in June 1926. Three Sisters have come from the parish.

Teachers — Leo Perlinger, Rosalie Gillen, Elizabeth Fruhstuck, Mathilda Nestmann, Mrs. LeBric, Alois Lorer.

Nurses — Dorothy Wurtzer, Mary Fruhstuck.  
University — Alois Roesch.



First sod church at Handel



Present church at Handel



The rectory at Handel





# History of the Wilkie Council of the Knights of Columbus

For some years it was felt that there should be a men's organization common throughout the Colony to replace the once active Volksverein.

An organization meeting was held on Sunday Nov. 28, 1948, in Wilkie. G. Forest, the Grand Knight of North Battleford Council, was present to explain the aims and objectives of the Knights of Columbus. A number of candidates filled in application forms at this meeting.

On Sunday Dec. 5, 1948, the first new members were initiated at North Battleford. With these and other members, a sub-council was formed at Wilkie on April 24, 1949. The officers were: A. G. Kusch, Pres. Knight; M. Schille, Vice-Pres. Knight; John Volk, Bursar; William Delainey, Sentry; Rev. Fr. J. Hermann, O.M.I., was appointed Chaplain.

On Sunday June 18, 1950, about 30 candidates were initiated at Saskatoon to swell our number. As a consequence, sub-councils were formed at Unity, Leipzig, Denzil, St. John's and Tramping Lake.

In July 1952, after two years of sub-council status, A. G. Kusch was appointed by the then state deputy W. A. Ried, as organizer for a council.

On Sunday, Nov. 23, 1952, the charter initiation of Wilkie Council was held and a council formed. The membership then was 270 members. The first Grand Knight was A. G. Kusch.

A second initiation was held on Sunday June 14, 1953, at Wilkie with a class of 62 candidates. The second council elections were held on June 28. A. G. Kusch were re-elected Grand Knight. The third initiation of the council was held at Revenue on Sunday Nov. 15, 1953, for a class of 54 candidates. The total membership of the council was now over 400.

The fourth initiation for a class of 42 was held in Wilkie on Sunday June 20, 1954, with a banquet at Scott. Wilkie Council at this time reached the peak of its membership with a total of around 440 members.

On July 14, 1954, William Reid of Wilkie was elected Grand Knight. He was the second incumbent.

On Nov. 21, 1954, just two years after the formation of the Wilkie council, a new council was formed at Denzil, splitting the district east and west, and taking some 180 of the members from the St. Joseph's Council.

Under the St. Joseph's Council, Wilkie, the following sub-councils have been formed: Leipzig, including Landis, Carmelheim and Handel; Scott, Revenue, Tramping Lake, Kerrobert, Unity, Wilkie. In all of these sub-councils and in the council as a whole there is much genuine Catholic activity.

The new Denzil council was inaugurated with an initiation, banquet, and instalation of officers at Denzil on Nov. 22, 1954. The first Grand Knight is Mr. J. A. Volk, A.B., B.Ed. Under this council the following sub-councils have been formed: Denzil, Macklin, St. John's (Salt Lake), Reward. With much energy and enthusiasm the officers and members of the new council devote themselves to the attainment of the aims of the order.

May the order of the Knights of Columbus prove a worthy successor to the renowned Volksverein. May it serve as a training school for the Catholic lay leaders of which there is such need.

A. G. Kusch



# Pioneer Days in my Community

**They came to the West; they saw the possibilities; they conquered the land**

*Adam Sieben (Grade 12)*

*Cosine, Sask.*

In our present day and age of power machinery, we are unaware of the fact that this very country has been conquered by the almost legendary pioneer. Pioneer days are over. But pioneer tales are told and retold, handed down from generation to generation, lest they be completely forgotten.

Let us imagine that we can turn time back to the year 1905. We see before us a barren and hilly country, a country that is unsettled and desolate; the distance between two pioneer farmers might be many miles. As we start our imaginary journey, we see a settlement in the valley below us. The settlement itself comprises a few sod buildings, small and simple, but appealing to the eye. Near the settlement, a man is busy at work; we cannot see what he is doing but as we come into closer view we see that he is picking rocks. We step up to greet him and he returns the greeting in a broken English.

One cannot but admire this man; he is young, strong, and muscular, and his clothes are of pioneer cut; his shirt is partly open to catch the breeze of the early evening. In our conversation he tells us that he emigrated from Europe and came to Canada to take up a settlement. He tells us that he had lived down east for a year but his love for adventure had persuaded him to come West. He made the trip by ox-cart and the famous prairie schooner. It took him many weeks of travel, but finally he reached his destination. We ask him to show us about his farm and proudly he agrees to do so. Our first stop is at his sod house; as we step inside we are greeted by his young wife; she too is dressed in the pioneer fashion. In our time these clothes would be rather bulky and rough but in pioneer days they were quite appropriate.

He shows us the furniture which he has made and his wife takes a very great pride in it. The only appliances which he has brought from the East are a cook stove and some kitchen utensils. As we look about the house we see that it is kept almost immaculate and everything is arranged in a graceful manner. We can also see that these two people are very happy in spite of the great privations to which they must submit.

Having shown us the house carefully, he leads us through the exit and we turn our footsteps toward the barn. The barn is also built of sod and the in-

terior thereof is covered with loam so that his stock can be kept comfortable during the cold winter months. Behind the barn is a small pasture and his cattle are grazing in it now. There are a few ponderous oxen in the herd and we assume that they are his only source of power.

Our final step is to a small field, which looks to be about twenty acres in size and is also the only field which he has been able so far to thresh. The young crop is progressing splendidly and the rich soil has enough mineral to raise many more crops like it. As we look at his crop carefully, we can see that it is not planted in parallel rows as our present machinery does it, but that the plants are spread all about; quite obviously it was planted by hand.

We are intensely interested in many things; we ask him how he spends his winters; how far to the closest church, to town, and numerous other questions. He answers them in a simple but definite way. He tells us that the nearest town is a hundred and ten miles distant. It takes them almost two weeks to make the trip by cart and oxen, as this is their only means of transportation. He tells us that the church is about ten miles from their homestead; it is a small church and the congregation is small but their faith is deep and sublime. Yes! these pioneers have great faith; they have brought it from their home country and planted it in Canadian soil for it to reproduce with generations to come.

We could stand here for hours and talk with him but the time has come to part. As we say good-bye, his wife is there with him. A warm handshake, and we promise them that we will be back soon. As we move along slowly we turn to look once more at these two people silhouetted against the sky; to look once more at these two people who have done so much with so little.

Today these stories are merely taken for granted, but if we stop and think, we'll have to admit that it was the pioneer who has built this great country of ours. It was not industry nor the capitalist; true enough they were partially responsible and have helped in many ways, but the pioneer has laid the foundation. How did he do it? With his own two hands, his deep faith and the interest that he had in everything he did.



## The Parishes of St. Joseph's Colony (Continued)

### Our Lady of Fatima Mission Landis, Sask.



Present church at Landis, facing west

#### Missionaries

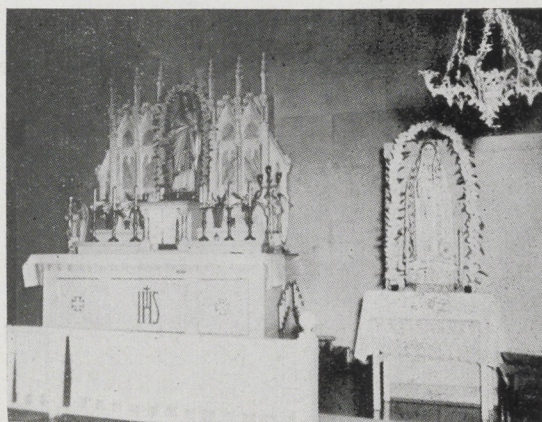
1946 Fr. Sluga O.M.I.  
from Handel.

1948 Fr. DeMong O.M.I.  
from Scott

Early settlers attended the mission at Carmelheim. Over the years it became necessary to care for the district more efficiently, so a mission church was built in 1946. First cared for from Handel; later it became more convenient to serve it from Scott because of road conditions; this transfer took place in 1948.

#### Vocations:

Teachers — C. Zimmer, D. Dick, L. Dick, T. Knoble, M. Koller.



Interior of the church; top piece of the altar was salvaged from burnt Leipzig church



## St. Charles Parish Revenue, Sask.

### Missionaries

1905 Fr. Laufer O.M.I.  
 1906 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
 1913 Fr. Schwebius O.M.I.  
 1914 Fr. Forner O.M.I.  
 1921 Fr. Nelz O.M.I.  
 1926 Fr. Rosenthal O.M.I.  
 1929 Fr. Krist O.M.I.  
     Fr. Bergmann O.M.I.  
     Fr. Walliser O.M.I.  
     Fr. Schoenwasser O.M.I.  
     Fr. Meyer O.M.I.  
     Fr. Rheidt O.M.I.  
     Fr. Herbst O.M.I.

The development of the west side of Tramping Lake begins with the pioneers of 1905 led from Battleford by Fr. Laufer and arrived June 27. The first Mass was celebrated in a tent on the 29, on the N.W. 32 - 37 - 21. In a short time the first church and residence were built. In the winter of 1906, R.C.M.P. brought much needed help. The great influx of settlers 1906 - 1907 demanded a more permanent structure. Made of clay and blessed July 1907, it served many years, with first church as rectory.

The first death was recorded in the winter of 1908; again brought R.C.M.P. help. The first episcopal visit was in 1907 by Bishop Pascal. Due to inclemency of weather and poor residence, the missionary moved to Tramping Lake from where he cared for Revenue then known as Selz. Change of pastors placed Revenue under Scott. The church in townsite began in June 1918, and was blessed August 15. It was completed some years later. In 1926 a rectory was built and Revenue received a resident pastor. In 1927 sisters came to teach in schools; in 1928 a parish hall was built.

### Pioneers (1905)

Ralph Ell, Ben Ell, Andrew Schann, Martel Schmidt, Martin Weber, John Volk, Val. Brossart.

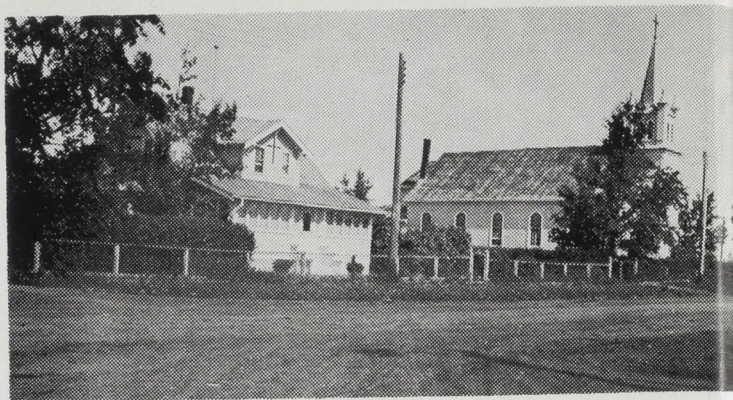
### Vocations:

Priesthood — Fr. Peter Elder

Sisterhood — Sister Bernadette

Teachers — Jake Volk, A. Elder, Ed Weber, T. Uzelman, L. Mitzel, M. Laturus, J. Weber, K. Sander, L. Schneider, K. Elder, Uzelman, F. Schwab, N. Herle, M. Rissling.

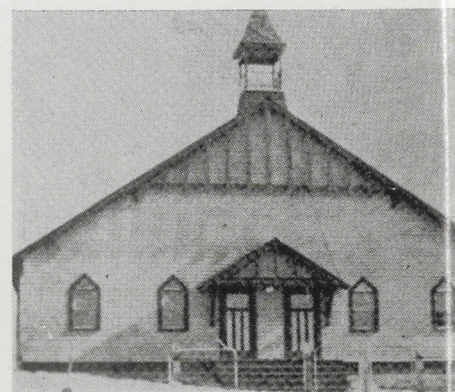
Nurses — M. Laturus, C. Laturus, Martha Fridgen, Mildred Fridgen, E. Sander.



Present St. Charles Borromeo church and rectory



First church and residence at Revenue



The parish hall



## St. Paschal Baylon Parish Leipzig, Sask.

### Missionaries:

1913 Fr. Krist O.M.I.  
1921 Vacant  
1923 Fr. Bieler O.M.I.  
1931 Fr. H. Boening O.M.I.

History of the parish is a continuation of the mission of Pascal. The C.P.R. branch line forced the change in location to the present townsite in 1912. The following year saw construction of the church and the rectory. 1914 saw the first mission. In 1917 the church was painted by Imhoff. The years 1921 and 1922 brought a vacancy and parish was cared for from Handel. Regular pastor in 1923.

The year 1926 brought the Sisters of Notre Dame. A small convent was blessed the same year by Bishop Prud'homme. The following year the new convent was begun and blessed in September 1928. The church was destroyed by fire Nov. 16, 1932. Construction of a new church followed shortly. This church flanked by the convent and the rectory is an ideal Catholic community.

### Vocations:

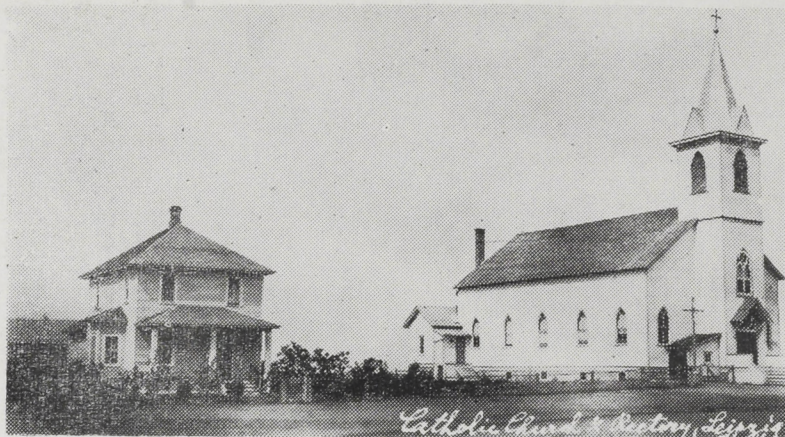
Priesthood — Fr. F. Hermann O.M.I.  
Fr. Lester Kaufmann O.M.I.

### 5 Seminarians

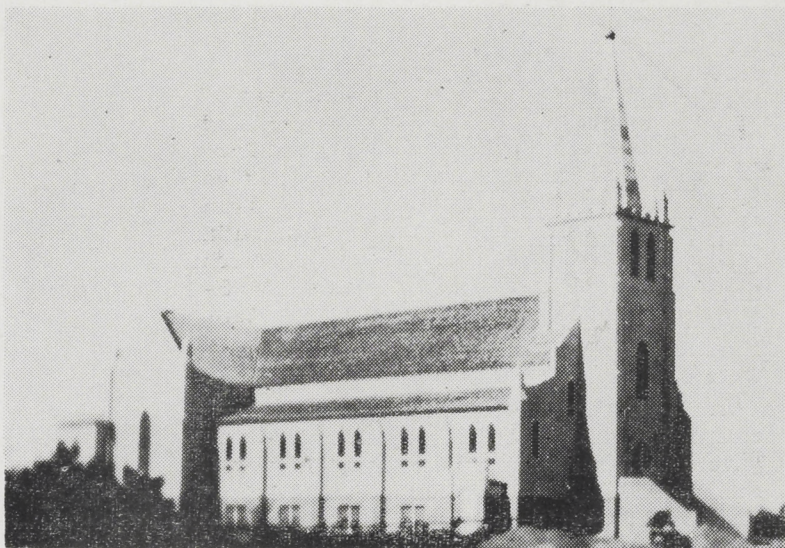
Sisterhood — Sisters Gabrella, Agatha, Fidelis, Vincentia, Lucy, Francene.

Teachers — Franke, Schurmann, Bitz, Novokowsky, Flasch, H. Gruber, R. Gruber, Hubec, E. Miller, G. Miller, Schmidt, Suchan, Ulsifer, R. Miller.

Nurses — Kaufman, Kolenosky, Schmidt, Miller, F. Schimnowsky, B. Schimnowsky, Schroeder, H. Ulsifer, A. Ulsifer, Kaufman, Ulrich.



Rectory and church which was destroyed by fire



The present church at Leipzig



Grotto and Convent at Leipzig



## St. Joseph's Parish Scott, Sask.

### Missionaries

1909 Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
1913 Fr. Schwebius O.M.I.  
1914 Fr. Forner O.M.I.  
1921 Fr. Nelz O.M.I.  
1926 Fr. Brabender O.M.I.  
1927 Fr. Boening O.M.I.  
1930 Fr. Hermes O.M.I.  
1931 Fr. Bieler O.M.I.  
1938 Fr. Schaller O.M.I.  
1939 Fr. Boening O.M.I.  
1940 Fr. Kosolofski O.M.I.  
1945 Fr. DeMong O.M.I.

The Trans-Continental Grand Trunk was built through Scott, Sept. 1908. In 1909, counted 19 families. The Dominion Experimental Farm was established in 1910. Mass was said in homes in 1909. First missionary built church and rectory and took residence in 1910. Future of town looked very bright but parish growth became limited when C.P.R. built up Wilkie with branch lines. However, Scott remained centre for missionaries. From here missions of Revenue, Wilkie, Unity, Rutland, etc. were cared for.

In 1915 church and rectory were completed and decorated. The year 1918 gave the parish its first mission by Fr. Funke, O.M.I. In 1924 a hospital with Sisters of St. Elizabeth was established and blessed by Bishop Prud'homme. Parish had grown to some 26 families. The year 1935 struck a blow to the parish due to rapid growth of Wilkie, of which it became a mission with Unity. A recovery was made in 1939 when again it became a parish; hospital was given up however. Church was improved by tower and new windows in 1944.

In 1947 with new life injected, the rectory was rebuilt and received Landis as a mission in place of Unity. Unity now became a parish. At Easter 1954 the old church was torn down and a modern structure was built and blessed in 1955.

### Vocations:

Teachers — Regina Fox, Marie Huber, Elizabeth Pschenitschnig.

Nurses — Mary Sittie, Delores Schille, Beverly McIsaac, Irene Rissling, Helen Oxman.



Former church at Scott



Exterior of the new St. Joseph's church



Interior of the new St. Joseph's church



## St. Michael's Parish Tramping Lake, Sask.

### Missionaries

Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
Fr. Guth O.M.I.  
Fr. Krist O.M.I.  
Fr. Hermandung O.M.I.  
Fr. Emil O.M.I.  
Fr. Schweers O.M.I.  
Fr. Schnerch O.M.I.

The first settlers resettled from the United States in 1906. Mass was first said on August 15, followed by the first procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The little church of sod was built on N.W. 28 - 36 - 21 in July. Blessed in September on the feast of St. Michael. The following year the rectory was built and the missionary took residence. The missions of Ermine and St. Francis were attended from here.

The parish developed rapidly and a more permanent structure for a church was built on the same location in 1910. With the coming of the railroad in 1913, the townsite sprouted many business enterprises. With the death of the pastor, the parish remained vacant for two years and was cared for from Scott. Plans were carefully laid for a new church in the townsite and became a reality in June 1922, with Christmas Mass celebrated in the new building. The year 1924 brought the Ursuline Sisters into the public school.

### Religious Vocations

#### *Ursuline Sisters of Prelate*

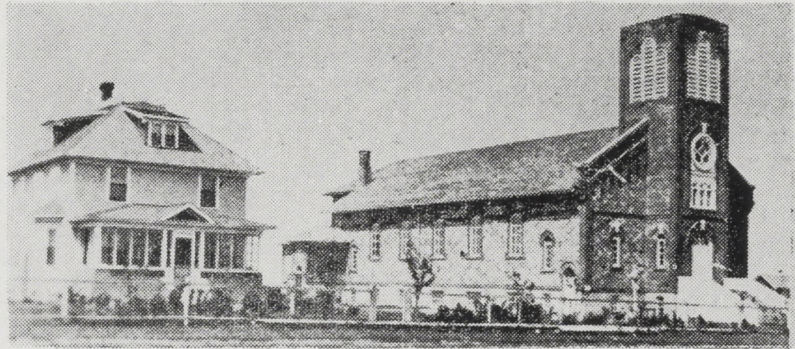
Sr. Benedicta (Elizabeth Gutenberg)  
Sr. Veronica (Mary Louise Heit)  
Sr. Bernadette (Anna Mary Hoffart)  
Sr. Helen (Rosa Hoffart)  
Sr. Martha (Magdalen Lang)  
Sr. Celestine (Eleanore Weran)  
Sr. Georgina (Mary Johner)  
Sr. Scholastica (Catherine Johner)  
Sr. Boniface (Amelia Johner)  
Sr. Beatrice (Magdalen Frehlich)  
Sr. Dorothy (Gertrude Bartsch)  
Sr. Rose (Barbara Frison)  
Sr. Imelda (Magdalen Burgart)  
Sr. Romana (Regina Jochim)  
Sr. Jane (Elizabeth Jochim)  
Sr. Benigna (Catherine Frehlich)

#### *Notre Dame Sisters of Leipzig*

Sr. Bernarda (Elizabeth Reiter)  
Sr. Eleonore (Magdalen Reiter)  
Sr. Damian (Catherine Reiter)  
Sr. Hyacinth (Rufina Reiter)  
Sr. Bernice (Julia Volk)  
Sr. Mary Ellen (Rosie Volk)



First sod church



The old church at Tramping Lake



The present St. Michael's church and rectory



## EARLY SETTLERS

(who settled in Tramping Lake in 1906)

Burgart, Andreas (family of 4); Bertsch, Peter (f. of 7); Frehlich, Joseph (10); Ganie, Joseph (4); Gutenberg, Anton (3); Gutenberg, Joseph (single); Halter, Anton (8); Halter, Engelbert (4); Heit, Lambert (5); Heit, Philip (6); Heit, Ignatz (6); Hoffart, Bernard (8); Hummel, Philip (7); Jochim, Geo. (8); Johner, Johannes (7); Kraft, Phil. (6); Lang, Anton (3); Lang, Felix (2); Lang, Johannes (7); Laschire, Jos. (6); Laturus, Mary (8); Meier, Lorenz (4); Reiter, Heinrich (2); Reiter, Joseph (8); Reiter, Georg (4); Sali, Jacob (4); Sander, Georg (3); Sander, Michel (6); Simon, Cyril (6); Senger, Phil. (6); Sitter, Mich. (6); Schwab, Wend. (8); Volk, Peter (5); Tuchscherer, Magd. (6); Wagner, Jos. (5); Weber, Phil. (4); Weran, Stephan (8); Zigler, Franz (5); (in all 210)

### Outstanding Lay Persons (Tramping Lake)

Bohn, Catherine, teacher 1943-55; Driscoll, Helen, R. N. 1933-36; Driscoll, Lucie, R. N. 1935-38; Frison, Edward, B.A. (Saskatchewan), teacher 1946-55; Frison, Joseph P., teacher 1933-52; Frison, Leo, B.A., B.Ed. (Saskatchewan), teacher 1947-55; Frison, Sebastian, Choirmaster 1947-55; Gawrie, Jessie, teacher 1923-33; Gawrie, Robert, B.A. (Dalhousie); Heit, Anton, Returning Officer 1949-55; Heit, Apollinia, teacher 1940-55; Heit, Martha, teacher 1954-55; Hoffart, Angela, teacher 1952-55; Hoffart, August, trustee of Larger School Unit 1945-50; Hoffart, Beatrice, teacher 1950-54; Hoffart, John, B.A. (Manitoba) M.B.A. actuary; Hoffart, Marcella, teacher 1951-55; Hoffart, Martha, R. N. 1948-55; Hoffart, Monica, R. N. 1953-55; Hoffart, Rita, teach-

er 1951-55; Gutenberg, Aemilia, teacher; Gutenberg, Anton, Reeve of Mariposa Munic. 1920-35; Gutenberg, Eva, R. N. 1944-47; Gutenberg, Mary, R. N. 1944-54, supervisor 1954-55; Gutenberg Florence, teacher 1941-43, R. N. 1948-55; Lang, Helen, R. N. 1949-55; Lang, Regina, teacher 1932-53; Meier, Adrian, Sec. of Larger School Unit 1945-48; Reiter, Kasper, choirmaster 1942-47; Reiter, John B., teacher 1936-55; Rimmer, Gab., Justice of Peace 1930-45; Schill, Florence, teacher 1938-43, R. N. 1943-47; Schill, Mary Lou, R. N. 1933-37; Senger, Pius teacher 1948-55; Senger Raymond, teacher 1954-55; Simon, Aemilia, teacher 1946-51; Tuchscherer, Magdalene, teacher 1944-55; Volk, Annie, R. N. 1940-55; Volk, Magdalena, teacher 1931-45; Wahl, A. E., choirmaster 1918-42; Wahl, Genovieve, B.A. (Seattle), R. N. 1937-43, instructress 1943-55; Wahl, Helen, R. N. 1948-55; Weber, Andy, teacher 1952-54; Weber, Eugene, teacher 1952-55; Weber, Theodore, teacher 1952-55.

### With Canada's Fighting Forces

Bartley, Peter; Bohn, Everen and Sylvester; Borsche-neck, Joseph and Conrad; Burgart, Joseph; Fetsch, Frank; Fluney, Robert; Frehlich, Joseph; Frison, Edward and Leo; Gowrie, Bruce, Jacob, Robert and Thomas; Gutenberg, Andrew and Joseph; Halter, Anton and Philip; Heit, Casper, Lambert and Tony; Hoffart, Frank P., Peter and Stanley J.; Johner, Jack; Lang, John; Lorér, Alois; Meier, Adrian and Philip; Reiter, Tony; Roth, Wendelin; Sander, John and Sebastian; Schan, George; Scherr, Alex; Schill, Donald, Norman and Wilfred; Schwab, Karl; Segmour, Delbert; Simon, Joseph; Sitter, Mathias; Stolz, George, Stanislaus and Peter; Volk, John; Wahl, Edward and Leo; Welter, George, John, Joseph and Peter; Weber, Frank.







